



## Case Study: Government Portal Up and running in 23 days

### Business Value

- Two rows of equipment consolidated to a single rack
- "Five nines" reliability
- Deployment in minutes versus weeks
- N+1 HA
- Remote management eliminates labor, operating costs

### Executive Summary

This government customer needed rapid delivery of a low-cost, high availability infrastructure to support a national-security Web portal. The Egenera® BladeFrame® system was up and running in just 23 days with quantifiable reductions in both capital and management costs compared to a legacy UNIX environment.

### Business Challenge

Established to help prevent terrorist attacks within the United States, this government Web site was designed to provide a portal for information sharing and collaboration. A top priority for the Bush administration after September 11, the site needed to be up and running in 30 days using the most cost-effective architecture possible for delivering a high availability infrastructure.

The customer was planning to base its new Web application on the same Sun architecture used by other government agencies. Unfortunately, the capital cost for build-out was prohibitively high. In addition, the management software was deemed too complex for rapid deployment.

### BladeFrame Solution

Overcoming the chief technology officer's initial concerns about supporting the new portal with Linux, Egenera was able to replace two rows of datacenter equipment with a single BladeFrame system in just 23 days. According to IT personnel, the BladeFrame's consolidated architecture, which houses 24 servers in a single chassis, enabled them to get up and running significantly faster than with UNIX servers. Simplifying datacenter infrastructure and consolidating cables has also helped the agency in its quest for "five nines" reliability. Moreover, with PAN Manager™ software, processing resources were deployed—including automated configuration of the software stack—in minutes, versus the weeks required to provision traditional hardware.

Egenera's approach to failover and high availability have also received high marks. A small pool of Egenera Processing Blade™ modules are maintained for both demand surges and failover requirements across all applications running on the system. Previously, the agency had to purchase dedicated backup machines for each application, driving costs up and utilization down. Alternatively, Egenera Processing Blades contain no internal disk or network or storage interface cards, making them anonymous and interchangeable resources. This basic design tenet allows PAN Manager software to assign any server identity to any Processing Blade at any time, enabling the system to dynamically increase, decrease or fail over processing resources.

*"We couldn't have done the portal with old technology. It would have cost too much and taken too long."*

*Project Manager*

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System manageability was also a key consideration. The portal's project manager reports that it requires fewer system administrators to manage BladeFrame resources than UNIX systems because the Egenera architecture "eliminates a lot of labor." Both the primary and disaster-recovery systems are remotely managed entirely through software, eliminating physical interaction with equipment, reducing personnel requirements and safeguarding uptime. Results include lower operating costs, saving taxpayer dollars.

Overall, the BladeFrame system cost significantly less than a UNIX-based infrastructure. With Sun servers, the agency would have purchased host bus adapters, network interface cards, load-balancing and high availability software, storage and IP network switches, cables and other components that come integrated with the Egenera system. "Every one of those comes with an integration cost and a maintenance cost," explained the project's manager. "Each connection is also a potential source of failure. Because the BladeFrame pre-packages so much of the functionality an enterprise-class datacenter needs, it lowers costs, simplifies management and simplifies the environment."



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