



## Government Portal

Up and Running in 23 Days

### Business Value

- Two rows of equipment consolidated to a single rack
- 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. Their new x86 servers running Linux® and PAN Manager® Software by Egenera® were 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 Microsystems® 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.

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

*Project Manager*

### PAN Manager Solution

Overcoming the chief technology officer's initial concerns about supporting the new portal with Linux, Egenera installed industry-standard x86 servers running PAN Manager in just 23 days. According to IT personnel, the new consolidated architecture enabled them to get up and running significantly faster than with their existing UNIX servers. Simplifying data center infrastructure and consolidating cables has also helped the agency in its quest for "five nines" reliability. Moreover, with PAN Manager, 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 received high marks. A small pool of servers is 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, PAN Manager requires no internal disk or interface cards on the servers, making them anonymous and interchangeable resources. This basic design tenet allows PAN Manager to assign any server identity to any server at any time, enabling the system to dynamically increase, decrease or fail over processing resources.

# Government

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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 data center resources than with their prior UNIX systems. Both the primary and disaster-recovery systems are remotely managed entirely through PAN Manager, eliminating physical interaction with equipment, reducing personnel requirements and safeguarding uptime. Results include lower operating costs which saves taxpayer dollars.

Overall, the PAN Manager and x86 solution costs 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. "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." But because PAN Manager's I/O virtualization features eliminates this level of complexity, "it lowers costs, simplifies management and simplifies the environment."



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