



SCBIT

Less Complexity, More Flexibility

Business Value

- Lower TCO
- High availability
- Application performance
- Faster time to market
- Less system administration

Executive Summary

SCBIT chose PAN Manager® Software by Egenera® over solutions from IBM® and Sun® Microsystems for its ability to simplify consolidation, virtualization and management; reduce application time to market; and lower data center costs. PAN Manager provides the flexible allocation and repurposing that SCBIT requires: The agency can run any of its 10-plus applications on any server at any time. PAN Manager also enables SCBIT to make every application highly available at virtually no cost and provides a unique N+1 approach to disaster recovery. Rigorous evaluation demonstrated the performance advantages of running Oracle® 10g on servers with PAN Manager versus traditional systems, while a single console provides remote access, lowering administration requirements.

Business Challenge

Established in July 2002, the Shanghai Center for Bioinformation Technology (SCBIT) is a non-profit organization engaged in the research and development of bioinformation technology under the administration of the Science & Technology Commission of Shanghai Municipality. Its mission is to promote the advancement of life sciences, biotechnology and the biopharmaceutical industry in Shanghai and across the country.

SCBIT develops and manages the Shanghai R&D Public Service Platform (RDPSP), which provides design, examination, testing and standardization services to scientists, engineers and technicians in both institutes and enterprises. With phases one and two complete, SCBIT plans to continue building the RDPSP through 2015.

SCBIT chose PAN Manager as the foundation for RDPSP infrastructure over other solutions for its simplicity, openness and utility computing capabilities. Once in production, it is slated for deployment in cities throughout China.

“With Egenera, as our platform continues to expand, we will avoid the complexity and server sprawl that are inevitable with legacy technology.”

*Director
Shanghai Center for Bioinformation Technology*

“The RDPSP consists of more than 10 subsystems running various applications. Because these applications are complex, mission-critical, and frequently modified, a virtualized, easily managed platform was needed,” said SCBIT’s director, adding that they chose PAN Manager because it “met all the requirements to achieve our vision for a world-class bioinformatics research and service center.”

He continues, “Compared to the IBM and Sun platforms we evaluated, the Egenera architecture simplifies consolidation, virtualization and management—enabling us to reduce application time to market and lower data center costs. With Egenera, as our platform continues to expand, we will avoid the complexity and server sprawl that are inevitable with legacy technology.”

PAN Manager Benefits

The RDPSP, which supports resource management and information consolidation along with database applications, is a high priority for the Shanghai government and serves as a model across China. Already, as many as 10 cities throughout the country are planning similar deployments to reap the advantages of Egenera technology, which include:

Utility Computing: PAN Manager provides the flexible allocation, reallocation and repurposing that SCBIT requires. Since PAN Manager’s foundation includes an intelligent fabric, I/O virtualization, and stateless servers, the agency can run any of the platform’s 10-plus services on any blade at any time, based on demand. This ability to right-size applications also improves the cost-effectiveness of data center infrastructure.

Healthcare

SCBIT

Simplicity: SCBIT was impressed by the physical simplicity of the Egenera approach, which consolidates connections to power, networks, and storage. Moreover, through virtualization, PAN Manager has reduced the number of hardware components on a legacy server by 80 percent, thereby lowering costs, improving reliability, and eliminating failure points.

Open Architecture: The servers are connected to a NetApp® FAS3020C. Likewise, PAN Manager's ability to support Linux®, Microsoft® Windows® and Sun® Solaris™ simultaneously on a single machine was a major factor in the purchase decision.

Reliability: Designed for enterprise data centers, PAN Manager provides full redundancy with its I/O virtualization, thereby safeguarding uptime. Egenera also enables SCBIT to make every application highly available at virtually no cost: The system's stateless servers and virtualization capabilities eliminate backup servers, redundant network and storage connections, and complex clustering software. Disaster recovery will also be achieved with this unique N+1 approach.

Server Consolidation: At SCBIT, Egenera technology reduced server count while simultaneously increasing processing capacity. Legacy architectures evaluated could not achieve both consolidation and reliability for the agency's mission-critical applications.

Performance: The Egenera solution has a remarkable synergy with Oracle 10g, SCBIT's chosen database. Rigorous evaluation demonstrated the performance advantages of running Oracle on Egenera versus traditional systems. Oracle Application Server and BEA® WebLogic™ also support the application.

Management: PAN Manager's elegant provisioning and management capabilities distinguished it from other solutions evaluated. A single console provides remote access to all virtual servers in the system, lowering administration requirements and costs. SCBIT officials describe PAN Manager's server management as "simple, clear and easy."



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