

“High-performance computing systems from Sun Microsystems, Inc. keep the Department of Computer Science a top-level research environment, and enable us to excel in the competitive academic world.”

KEI HIRAKI, PROFESSOR OF INFORMATION SCIENCE, DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO

EARNING THE HIGHEST DEGREE



The University of Tokyo is Japan's oldest and largest research university, with more than 28,000 students spread across 10 undergraduate faculties, 12 graduate divisions, and 12 affiliated research institutes.

Information Science Professor Kei Hiraki was assigned the task of designing a computing environment at the University of Tokyo's newest academic division, the Graduate School of Information Science and Technology, which was founded in April 2001.

The new system had to include a rich computing environment for students and researchers, utility servers and backbone networks for departmental uses, and a computing server. Following a six-month evaluation process, the University chose a computing solution from Sun Microsystems, Inc. that included Sun Ray™ 100 enterprise appliances, Sun Blade™ 1000 workstations, and a Sun Enterprise™ server solution.

Ready for Grad School

“Our past experience with Sun was a big factor in our choosing a Sun solution. We already employ a SPARC™ architecture and the Solaris™ Operating Environment for our undergraduate education, and we've been very happy with it. It made sense to extend this solution to our graduate student environment,” says Hiraki.

Hiraki attributes the strong relationship between Sun and the Department of Computer Science to Sun's commitment to open standards. “For our research

purposes, we require detailed information on system hardware and software. Sun's policy of opening technical information within the U.S. government's export control guidelines is important for our department.”

But the most compelling criteria for choosing Sun's hardware solution ended up being performance, interoperability, and reliability. “Sun's cost was the most attractive when taking into account performance, scalability, and interoperability with other systems in our department,” adds Hiraki.

A Top-level Research Environment

The centerpiece of the University of Tokyo's Graduate School of Information Science and Technology is a new computer cluster for research. The University outfitted the computing center with 128 Sun Blade 1000 workstations, whose high-performance networking options make them ideal for software development and R&D functions. Complementing the Sun Blade workstations are 40 Sun Ray 1 desktop appliances, powered by a Sun Enterprise 4500 midrange server.

The department is delighted with their decision to design and implement Sun's solution. “Our new computer cluster is already humming with advanced

KEY FEATURES

Customer

- University of Tokyo, Department of Computer Science, Graduate School of Information Science and Technology

Industry

- Education

Application

- Sun™ Grid Engine, software integration support

ISV Solution Set

- Custom

Area of Focus

- Collaborative engineering—HPC

Sun Products

- Sun Blade 1000 workstation
- Sun Ray 100
- Sun Enterprise 4500 server
- Sun™ Cluster

Geography

- Asia (Japan)



Sun Blade 1000
www.sun.com/desktop

www.u-tokyo.ac.jp

research projects,” says Hiraki. “High-performance systems from Sun keep the Department of Computer Science a top-level research environment.”