

Industry

- Higher Education

Customer Spotlight

- University of Utah

Industry Challenges

- Extreme scalability
- Uptime and maintenance
- User expectations for availability and performance

Oracle's PeopleSoft Enterprise Applications Suite

- Financials
- Human resource management
- Payroll
- Student administration
- Enterprise portal

Sun Solution

- Solaris™ 10 Operating System
- Sun Java™ Enterprise System
- Sun Fire™ 280R Servers running Sun Java Web Server with BEA WebLogic proxy plug-in
- Sun Fire V890 servers running BEA WebLogic
- Sun Fire E6900 Servers running business logic and database servers
- Sun SPARC® Enterprise 5220 Servers
- Sun StorageTek™ 6140 Arrays
- Sun StorageTek 9900 Systems
- Sun StorEdge™ software

Solution Results

- Multi-server infrastructure supports up to 100 TB of data storage
- Scales up and down, enabling use of less expensive platforms for demo, test, development, and maintenance
- Redundant servers minimize downtime for maintenance
- Compatibility across Sun platforms and Solaris OS lowers risk, improves uptime, saves administrative effort

“We needed the flexibility to run Oracle's PeopleSoft Enterprise application suite on everything from small two-processor platforms to very large 24-processor servers. The broad scalability of Sun's server line, combined with compatibility across Sun SPARC® platforms and different versions of the Solaris™ OS, enables us to do this.”

Corey Pedersen

Assistant Director of Systems and Operations
University of Utah

Keeping pace with demand

The University of Utah offers a full portfolio of undergraduate and graduate degree programs, and a classification by the Carnegie Foundation as one of 50 comprehensive research universities in the United States. Enrollment at the University of Utah tops more than 28,000 students, and the University employs more than 18,000 staff members, counting the university hospital and network of clinics.

In order to facilitate operations, the University takes advantage of many elements of Oracle's PeopleSoft Enterprise application suite, including financials, human resource management systems, payroll, student administration, and enterprise portal. The full infrastructure supporting Oracle's PeopleSoft Enterprise applications at the University is expansive, spanning dozens of servers and supporting up to 100 TB of data storage.

Supporting enterprise processing for such a sizeable institution requires highly scalable hardware platforms. What's more, the online mindset of today's students, as well as the drive to compete in the area of health sciences, requires 24/7 system availability.

The University utilizes scalable, reliable Sun servers, storage systems, and the Solaris OS deployed in an architecture that fosters the availability and performance users expect.

Scalability and flexibility

The University originally chose Sun platforms for best-in-class symmetric multi-processing (SMP) scalability and mainframe-like features to support its high-end requirements, however, the ability to scale down is just as relevant. The University hosts many demo, test, development, and diagnostic copies of the same database to effectively maintain the enterprise processing environment and support migration from one version of Oracle's PeopleSoft Enterprise applications to the next. Purchasing exact replicas of the large production database servers is cost prohibitive.

The breadth and flexibility of Sun's server line provides the University with a flexible, cost-effective solution to their scalability requirements. Sun's wide range of compatible offerings enables the University to run complete images of Oracle's PeopleSoft Enterprise applications on a small two-processor platform as well as a very large 24-processor server with 48 cores. Binary compatibility across Sun SPARC platforms and different versions of the Solaris OS provides the University with the ability to take the same software stack from a very small system to a large-scale system with ease.

Maximized uptime

The University of Utah minimizes downtime for maintenance by using redundant servers

within each tier, so upgrades and repairs of individual nodes can take place while the remaining active nodes handle the load. In addition, the University is able to back up and replicate the massive data sets within the enterprise processing systems as needed by taking advantage of Sun tools such as Sun StorEdge™ Instant Image software and Sun StorEdge Network Data Replicator software.

With regard to upgrades, the release-to-release compatibility of Sun platforms and the Solaris OS eases migration efforts. The University started with the Solaris 7 OS and now uses the Solaris 10 OS across Sun systems running Oracle's PeopleSoft Enterprise applications, and each required conversion was completed smoothly. According to Corey Pedersen, Assistant Director of Systems and Operations, Sun maintains compatibility for applications across releases of the Solaris OS. The University stays with Sun solutions because of the consistency of the Solaris OS and hardware platforms over time — the compatibility lowers risk and improves uptime while saving significant administrative effort.

Poised for the future

Sun and Oracle recognize the University of Utah as a showplace for successful, large-scale Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) deployments, and have created a Sun and PeopleSoft Center of Excellence at the University. The technology partnership forged between the University of Utah, Sun, and Oracle provides the added benefits of improving Sun and Oracle products and keeping the University poised for the future with early adoption of some of the latest innovations from both companies.

As an example, the University of Utah recently replaced significant quantities of late model, power hungry, high maintenance servers with Sun SPARC Enterprise 5220 servers and Sun StorageTek™ 6140 and 9900 systems. In line with Sun's Enterprise Consolidation and Eco Responsibility initiatives, the University expects this replacement to result in reduced maintenance expense, power consumption, and datacenter crowding. This step also supports key operational objectives for the University Administrative Computing Services.

Learn more

To learn more about Sun Microsystems and Oracle, please visit sun.com/oracle and oracle.com. For more information on the University of Utah, visit utah.edu.