

success²

PRIMEPOWER

The DaimlerChrysler Bank Group was using an outsourced server solution from its established Unix hardware supplier to run the applications it required. When it became clear that the performance of this solution was no longer adequate, DaimlerChrysler Bank decided to replace the existing hardware platform. The wide variety of benefits in the product proposal from Fujitsu Siemens Computers prompted the IT management team at DaimlerChrysler Bank to test the comparative performance of the PRIMEPOWER M 2000 system against the systems that were originally envisioned.

The result: PRIMEPOWER performance was shown to be far superior to that of its competitors.

Energize Your Business: www.fujitsu-siemens.com/PRIMEPOWER

DaimlerChrysler Bank

THE CUSTOMER

The DaimlerChrysler Bank Group is the financial services company of DaimlerChrysler Services AG in Germany.

"A number of critical factors influenced our decision to use the PRIMEPOWER M 2000, including its proven performance and reliability and its attractive pricing model!"

Dirk Pietrzyk, Senior Manager and IT Coordinator
at the DaimlerChrysler Bank Group

THE CHALLENGE

With an anticipated increase of approx. 50% in data volume, it was essential to find a suitable Unix-based hardware platform.

THE SOLUTION

PRIMEPOWER systems, delivering impressive results in comparative tests and offering full binary compatibility with SUN SPARC processors.

DaimlerChrysler Bank Group: A company on the move

The DaimlerChrysler Bank Group acts as the financial services company of DaimlerChrysler Services AG in Germany. With its portfolio of tailor-made car finance solutions and insurance options, it offers greater mobility, financial flexibility and security for customers of Mercedes-Benz, smart, Chrysler, Jeep and Setra. The DaimlerChrysler Bank Group therefore makes an effective contribution to car sales within the DaimlerChrysler group: One in every three cars sold by DaimlerChrysler in Germany is financed or leased via the DaimlerChrysler Bank Group.

In addition to financial services designed specifically for vehicles, customers can also choose from a wide range of insurance products, including cover for personal insurance requirements. Other services introduced by the DaimlerChrysler Bank in 2002 include investment and savings products, funds and customer credit cards. The DaimlerChrysler Bank Group employs approximately 1,250 employees and achieved sales revenues of 2.65 billion euros in fiscal 2000.

Current situation: unsatisfactory performance
The DaimlerChrysler Bank Group was previously using an outsourced server solution provided by its established hardware supplier to run the applications required for its business operations. These systems needed to be upgraded or even replaced in some cases, since their performance was no longer sufficient to meet the demands of mission-critical applications. In addition, the Bank Group faced the requirement for 24 x 7 operational availability. The introduction of new bank services would also require better performance. The DaimlerChrysler Bank Group estimated that these new demands alone would represent an increase of approximately 50% in data volumes. The requirement for any future hardware supplier was to provide a Unix platform. This was a good starting point for Fujitsu Siemens Computers to suggest its PRIMEPOWER systems, since they offer full binary compatibility with SUN SPARC processors. The 560 MHz SPARC64TM processors were developed in-house by Fujitsu, and their advanced architecture offers clear performance improvements in some areas, even at comparable or lower MHz ratings. This has been proven in numerous standard benchmarks. And because the original SUN Solaris operating system is used on PRIMEPOWER systems, there is no need to modify applications that have been developed for Solaris.

PRIMEPOWER:

Clearly superior in performance tests

The array of benefits in the product proposal from Fujitsu Siemens Computers prompted the IT management team to test the comparative performance of the PRIMEPOWER M 2000 system against the systems that were originally envisioned.

As a result, PRIMEPOWER performance was shown to be far superior to that of its competitors. One of the things revealed by the test was that the time window of 48 hours per run previously required for routine batch processes could be reduced to six hours with the PRIMEPOWER system.

After completion of the test phase, the DaimlerChrysler Bank Group decided to purchase two PRIMEPOWER M 2000 systems and run them in-house.

According to Dirk Pietrzyk, Senior Manager and IT Coordinator at the DaimlerChrysler Bank Group, the critical factors in favor of the PRIMEPOWER M 2000 were its proven performance and reliability, as well as its attractive pricing model. Under the new server strategy, two centralized systems will now run at separate locations (disaster recovery).



PRIMEPOWER 2000



Successful migration with a smooth transfer of data and 100% compatibility

With an expansion capacity of up to 128 processors, PRIMEPOWER systems are extremely flexible in terms of scalability. The PRIMEPOWER platform was therefore the first choice when considering future developments and a suitable hardware strategy. The positive overall impression gained during project implementation was further reinforced by the smooth transfer of data, the integration know-how of Fujitsu Siemens Computers, the support provided by the Fujitsu Siemens Computers Oracle Competence Center, and the fact of 100% compatibility during system migration.

The delivery of systems from Fujitsu Siemens Computers is known to be reliable, and migration could therefore be planned and executed so precisely that the systems went live at exactly the same time as the outsourcing contract to operate the previous systems expired. Today, the PRIMEPOWER systems are running at 90 to 95% capacity during processing periods. Even at high capacity, the scalability of these systems is excellent. The Bank is perfectly placed to meet any demand for future growth in data volumes simply by increasing the number of CPUs and the drives in the disk subsystem.

Taking advantage of the strategic alliance with Oracle

As part of this project, the DaimlerChrysler Bank Group was able to benefit from the successful strategic alliance between Oracle and Fujitsu Siemens Computers: two strong partners whose renowned technological expertise is also evident in world records* for server and database solutions. The DaimlerChrysler Bank Group opted to use an Oracle 8i database. In addition to performance considerations, a significant factor in this choice was the Bank's preference for an e-business-enabled environment that would prepare the company for e-commerce.

*) ATO 2-tier; 34,260 assembly orders/h; 1.73 sec. response time, 64 Sparc64 450 MHz CPUs, 64 GB RAM, SAP R/3 4.6B, Solaris 8, Oracle 8.1.6.

Facts and figures

Hardware:

- > Two PRIMEPOWER M2000 servers
(with 36 / 32 CPUs and 16 /
20 GB memory respectively)

Operating system::

- > Solaris 7

Database:

- > Oracle 8i

Storage management system:

- > Veritas

Storage systems / networks:

- > Fibrecat

Software / application:

- > Fernbach



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