

Bharat Forge boosts SAP application performance by 100 per cent with Integrity server blades running HP-UX



BHARAT FORGE

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—Yogesh Zope, vice president IT services, Bharat Forge Limited

HP customer case study
Bharat Forge increases SAP application performance, lowers power consumption and supports business growth with HP Integrity server blades running HP-UX

Industry
Manufacturing

Objective

Required more powerful servers to accommodate the latest SAP applications, support rapid business growth, lower power consumption and save space within its data centres

Approach

Asked its internal IT service provider to discuss its requirements with a well-established business and technology partner and assessed the potential savings associated with the proposed solution

IT improvements

- Delivers a reliable, high-availability server platform, supporting the company's mission-critical SAP applications
- Boosts SAP application performance by 100 per cent
- Supports business expansion, satisfying a growing number of SAP application users across the Group

Business benefits

- Reduces power consumption significantly, lowering Total Cost of Ownership
- Offers a robust disaster recovery capability, safeguarding business continuity
- Lowers data centre footprint by 50 per cent, releasing space for business growth



Bharat Forge Limited (BFL), the flagship company of India's Kalyani Group, is among the world's largest and most technologically advanced manufacturers of forged and machined components. With a global capacity of over 750,000 tonnes per annum, the company has operations across 11 locations; four in India, three in Germany, two in China and additional sites in Sweden and the USA. BFL produces a wide range of safety and critical components for the automotive, energy, construction and mining industries as well as the marine, power, rail, and oil and gas sectors.

As one of India's leading industrial organisations, the Kalyani Group operates in four primary sectors; automotive and non-automotive components, engineering steel, renewable energy, and urban infrastructure and speciality chemicals. Kalyani Technologies delivers IT services to BFL and other companies within the Group.

Customer solution at a glance

Application

SAP ERP Central Component 6

Oracle database 10g

Hardware

- 7 x HP Integrity BL860c i2 server blades
- 1 x HP ProLiant BL460c G6 server blades
- 2 x HP BladeSystem c7000 enclosures

Software

- HP-UX 11i v3

HP Services

- HP Technology Services
- HP Care Packs 24/7, six-hour response to fix



Rapid business growth drives change

BFL has experienced substantial business growth both organically and through acquisition over the last few years. A recent financial report states that growth in domestic and export markets has risen by 59 per cent year-on-year and within the last year non-automotive business increased by 90 per cent. The company has driven export growth by winning new customers, strong non-automotive sector performance, product developments and entering new international markets. A commitment to using advanced IT systems has provided a competitive edge in both new and existing markets by delivering high-quality products and customer service.

During this time, the organisation has employed SAP ERP applications for business-critical production planning, sales, plant maintenance, finance, quality management and materials management. Approximately 500 users utilise the technology which has been running on HP Integrity rack-mounted servers at two Indian data centres. Two HP Integrity rx7620 servers run all the applications including the Oracle database while two HP Integrity rx2600 servers managed development, testing and quality assurance.

"Although the legacy HP Alpha server technology met our requirements well due to the reliability of the operating system, we needed to update our server estate and SAP applications to satisfy an increasing demand for IT services across Bharat Forge and the Group. SAP is at the heart of our business. We wanted a high-end server solution that would increase performance and scalability, lower power consumption and release valuable space within our data centres. This approach would also accommodate the new functionality offered by the latest SAP application," says Yogesh Zope, vice-president IT services, Bharat Forge Limited.

Represented by Kalyani Technologies, BFL then discussed its requirements with HP, a long-standing technology partner. "We have been highly satisfied with the reliability, performance and availability of HP Integrity server technology and the excellent support delivered to our organisation," continues Zope.

"Moreover, we knew the robust mission-critical Integrity technology with HP-UX would support our new SAP environment and offer a sound return on investment. After assessing the potential savings due to lower Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) and reduced power consumption, this investment was fully justified."

Blade technology delivers disaster recovery capability

To support the deployment of SAP ERP Central Component 6 and Oracle database 10g, BFL implemented an HP Converged Infrastructure solution comprising an HP BladeSystem c7000 enclosure at each data centre. Running the HP-UX 11i v3 operating system, the primary production site enclosure contains five HP Integrity BL860c i2 server blades; two act as database servers, two handle the SAP applications and BFL uses the fifth server for development, testing and quality assurance. An HP ProLiant BL460c G6 server blade manages the enclosure.

To safeguard business continuity, the disaster recovery site enclosure holds two HP Integrity BL860c i2 server blades, which also manage the databases and applications. This new redundantly-configured server landscape offers BFL and the Group enhanced performance and scalability as well as high availability for mission-critical applications. HP Technology Services designed and implemented the solution and HP Care Packs support the servers by offering a round-the-clock, six-hour to fix response time. BFL has employed HP Proactive-24 support for over five years and estimates system availability stands at 96 per cent due to rapid resolution times.

Increased performance and scale at lower cost

Thanks to the HP solution, Bharat Forge and the Kalyani Group now have the capability to meet the demands of an increasing number of SAP application users and provide engineering and design support to a steadily-increasing customer base. The shift to energy-efficient HP blade technology has also reduced TCO by lowering power and cooling costs significantly. Moreover, the compact Integrity hardware has released 50 per cent of the available space within the company's data centres, supporting future business growth.

"With HP Integrity server blades running HP-UX in our data centres, application performance has increased considerably. Application response times have fallen from 1,088 to 575 milliseconds, boosting performance by nearly 100 per cent. We now have the technology to support our business growth strategy for the foreseeable future," concludes Zope.

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