

Marathon is the Clear Winner for Leading Sports Media Company

Customer Profile

- Leading sports and media company

Environment

- Microsoft® Windows®2000
- HP Proliant DL380 and DL 580 Servers
- Marathon Endurance® 6200
- Marathon FTvirtual Server™

Business Applications

- Microsoft Exchange (4000 users)
- Bottom Line Services
- VisualAll ScheduleAll
- MOS Server
- Microsoft File/Print
- SQL Server

One of the largest and most dynamic sports marketing and media companies in the world, relies on Marathon software to protect its important Windows applications from downtime.

Dependable, continuous communication of information is a top priority for this media company's IT department. Writers, producers, and news sources worldwide use Windows applications, such as email for instant communication of breaking news, scores, and other time-critical information to on-air personalities. The company's radio hosts use email to make their programs interactive by reading and responding to listener emails while live on the air. Field staff also rely on wireless email to access breaking news, promotional program data, schedule changes, and important corporate information.

In addition, several Windows-compatible applications such as file/print and SQL are critical for many of the company's business operations.

With a reputation for 24-hour coverage, this company has no tolerance for even a minute of downtime for its key business applications due to component failures or even physical disasters.

Situation

For disaster protection, the media company's infrastructure is located in two fully redundant data centers. They needed a fault and disaster tolerant solution for their important applications that would deliver *continuous* service to end users in the event of a disaster without the need for a "failover" process or operator intervention. They also wanted a system that would provide complete data protection- even for data in-transit during a disaster.

A key selection criteria was the ability to perform routine maintenance and repair on server hardware and to install most software patches without interrupting service to end users. They rejected technologies that relied on a shared disk or any other potential single point of failure.

That's why this media company chose to evaluate the patented, field-proven Marathon FTvirtual Server™ software. Marathon software unites unmodified industry- standard servers into a single, fully redundant configuration that appears to the network, applications, OS and system administrators as a single fault tolerant server.

Marathon computes through component failures, delivering, seam-

- Fault and Disaster Protection of Critical Application
- Optimized Productivity
- Low Total Cost of Ownership

less service to end users with no loss of application data, no need for transaction rollback, and no loss of performance. Replaced components automatically rejoin the configuration without operator intervention. The company's IT staff chose Marathon software to make their IT services as efficient and reliable as possible by protecting email, file/print, Active Directory, and several other key systems.

Putting Marathon to the Test

The media company tested Marathon using Compaq DL380s with Exchange 2000 email application for their fault and disaster tolerant systems. The company's state-of-the-art testing lab enabled them to simulate their real-world

environment and conditions in which the test system would be used. Simulating use by 4000 end users, the testing program began with the boot up and component verification process to test system components and functionality. The program then simulated the loss of network connection failures and the failure of every piece of server hardware. Testing included:

- Memory failure
- Major server hardware failure
- Restoration of failed server component
- Disk failure o Loss of network connection
- Loss of connection between the two redundant servers
- Power disconnect or catastrophic server failure

Marathon software was put through stringent testing. It passed its tests with flying colors and has exceeded the company's requirements for uptime and availability.

Clearly a Step Ahead

The Marathon technology performed as expected or better throughout the testing process. The application continued to operate continuously throughout each of the failure scenarios as well as through the installation of a variety of OS and application patches and bug fixes. System administration was simple and straightforward.

Based on these results, the company is considering use of Marathon to protect a wider range of key Windows-based applications.

Marathon FTvirtual Server Software

Based on Marathon's field-proven, patented technology, Marathon FTvirtual Server™ software unites two qualified industry-standard servers into a single, fully redundant configuration that appears to the network, applications, OS, and system administrators as a single fault and disaster tolerant server.

- **Simple** – No need for special management skills, cluster API programming, or scripting
- **Data Protection** – No loss of state, application context or in-flight data transactions
- **Hands Off Maintenance and Repair** – Repair while system is operating. Repaired sub-system automatically rejoins
- **Choice** – Available on leading server and blade server brands
- **Continuous Processing** – Data and application available through OS or hardware failures and disasters. Features integrated mirrored storage, delta copy recovery and duplicate network connections

For more information

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