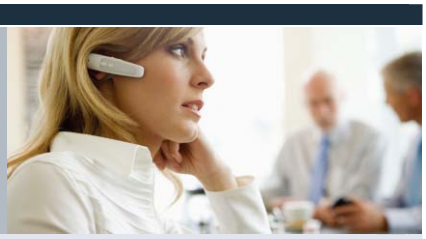
VME Solutions

AN IMPECCABLE HERITAGE...



still going strong and set to continue for many years to come

VME customers have enjoyed the benefits of a robust, powerful and secure IT environment for many years. They have managed their business knowing the hardware they rely on will steadfastly keep running. Secure that their system software will carry on operating. Certain that the applications their employees and customers depend upon will continue to function consistently.

But for confidence to be maintained, customers need to be sure that the VME environment will carry on being supported. Assured that, as technology moves forward, VME will continue to thrive in the world of open systems in the 21st century. And, convinced that VME will remain every bit as capable and innovative as newer systems coming onto the market.

At Sandiy, there is recognition that VME has served its customers well for many years. There is an acknowledgement that these customers have made large investments, not only in the infrastructure, but in applications and training as well. So there is a huge desire to see that they continue to be well looked after. But it's not about propping up an aging system. Far from it. The whole environment is continuously invigorated. Every aspect is subject to update and change and it is an ongoing process. A process that keeps it in line with and ahead of many seemingly more modern systems.

Significant developments in OpenVME technology, coupled with state of the art Intel processing technology, have enabled Sandiy to offer unparalleled flexibility and scalability, with all the robustness of the traditional mainframe.

Since 2001, a flexible platform has been capable of running combinations of OpenVME and Windows partitions on industry standard Intel technology. The next phase of innovation will deliver complete platform independence by enabling OpenVME to run on both Windows and Linux platforms.

Sandiy has committed to continue supporting VME until at least 2020. This represents a massive investment with funding being set aside to ensure the long-term future. Customers will continue to have all the benefits of an enterprise-hardened system that is being constantly enhanced, upgraded and modernised.

Customers' investments in their applications are protected by Sandiy's strategy of ensuring full compatibility between successive versions of VME and all the associated options and products – thus avoiding the need to recompile applications or reload databases when upgrading.

THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF A GREAT SYSTEM

TRIMETRA SERVERS

Sandiy's Trimetra NOVA range of VME servers continues a well renowned tradition of providing a secure and cost effective platform for running customers' mission critical business applications. Built on hardware sourced from industry leading partners, including Sandiy Siemens, Unisys, EMC2 and StorageTek, the miniNOVA and NOVA systems have the capacity to support all customers from the smallest to the very largest.

Trimetra NOVA delivers both OpenVME and Windows capability on a single flexible platform running partitionable Intel technology.

NOVA 4 was released in 2004, delivering increased power and flexibility – up to nearly 1,000 MIPS in an OpenVME system, allowing the largest customer workloads to be supported. And NOVA 5 is planned for release, providing an even greater level of top-end cover.

The Trimetra miniNOVA is the ideal system for smaller customers requiring 5, 10 or 15 MIPS of single node VME processing capability. Based on Sandiy Siemens Primergy server technology, the miniNOVA combines all the benefits of OpenVME with the advantages of the volume Intel server.

And Trimetra NOVA and miniNOVA servers take less space, consume less power and generate less heat than earlier processor systems.

Centralised computing

Trimetra fits well with the current trend for centralised computing. Independent analysts estimate that between 26% and 32% can be saved by reversing the 1980s/1990s trend for distributed systems. Sandiy's own research into its customers' costs found that a single support person could look after 500 centralised end users, whereas a similarly skilled person can only support 150 users in a distributed environment.

By using openly sourced 'best of breed' products and integrating them to form the Trimetra range of servers, Sandiy continues to drive down cost by enabling better integration into customers' overall IT environment.

VME SOFTWARE

Sandiy continues to invest in new versions of OpenVME to ensure that its customers have access to all the business advantage that the most modern technology provides. OpenVME gives customers what they want, which is why Sandiy has committed to develop, support and invest in it through to 2020 and beyond.

OpenVME version 5 was released in 2003. This provides customers with the ability to fully implement TCP/IP on OpenVME – enabling the OSI infrastructure to be replaced. OpenVME version 6, released in 2004, continues the programme of regular updates to VME. It provides the infrastructure needed to allow connection to VME of forthcoming new industry standard tape devices.

Complete platform independence will be delivered by the superNOVA software development programme. This will enable OpenVME to run on any suitable Windows or Linux environment, eliminating the need for proprietary mainframe hardware. It will be available in early 2007 on 64-bit Intel technology.

Backward compatibility

VME has always given its users more than just an operating system: transaction processing, file and database management, backup and recovery, diagnostics and tracing, performance monitoring, system management, language compilers, data dictionary and more all form part of the environment. Each of these benefits has been tested and proven to work with every new release of software.

Thus – a real boon to users – backward compatibility has been preserved. There is no requirement to re-compile applications or re-load data.

THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF A GREAT SYSTEM

STORAGE

With storage requirements increasing by as much as two fold every few years, organisations need to know that their solution is accessible, secure and manageable.

The trend towards centralised computing encompasses the use of storage resources and servers that are connected to enterprise-wide Storage Area Networks. This makes them easier to manage and keeps costs down.

Through support of fibrechannel, VME can be part of an enterprise-wide Storage Area Network connecting to highly reliable and resilient storage subsystems from industry leading suppliers of disk, tape and tape virtualisation technologies. These include EMC2 DMX and CLARiiON disk systems, StorageTek tape libraries and Sandiy-Siemens CentricStor virtual tape system.

Management tools provide a framework for managing increasing amounts of storage, for monitoring how the resource is being used and to redeploy resource. High availability is provided by the features of the disk systems such as RAID and hot spare disks, while disaster recovery is quickly enabled by data replication on remote sites.

APPLICATION MODERNISATION

At the heart of any IT system are the applications. Keeping them up to date and fit for purpose is fundamental. Adding functionality by combining new and existing applications is an efficient approach to meeting user requirements. For example, the data on host systems can be made more accessible to new applications such as workflow, and new technologies such as hand held devices.

This is where HostTalk comes in.

HostTalk is a range of products and services that supports interworking between VME systems and the other components within customers' IT estates, and makes it possible to access information that might otherwise be difficult and expensive to get at. It capitalises on the widely held view that it is faster and more cost effective to integrate existing systems into solutions and application architectures rather than replace them with new applications.

Most host applications only allow front end users access to 'green screens', which are unsuitable for use by non-experts. HostTalk allows the user interface to be improved and modernised without the need to change the application running on VME. Aside from creating a more modern environment within the organisation, it makes users more productive and reduces learning times. And with the internet, data and transactions can be made available to people outside the organisation.

This all serves to reduce costs as business process tasks become quicker and easier to implement and administrative staff become more productive.

Increasingly, organizations are seeing the benefit of sticking with VME. Applications, both packaged and bespoke, that have proved their dependability over many years, can be maintained and enhanced. Business risk is minimised. Benefits are realised. Costs are predictable – and being reduced.

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