PartnerWorld
xSP Prime program

Seven Mountains aspires to break new Internet ground

Overview

- ***The Challenge***
  Norwegian software supplier Seven Mountains wanted to measure the scalability and performance of its 7M Aspire Version 2 software in an Application Service Provider (ASP) environment
- ***The Solution***
  IBM xSP Prime program with IBM @server xSeries™ servers using Intel® Pentium® III and Xeon™ processors
- ***The Benefit***
  Validates enterprise-level scalability to 25,000 users, maintains high performance level of a new version of 7M Aspire application, and benefits from wealth of IBM experience and unique ASP resources

Get out there fast

When it comes to launching new ventures or strategies in today's e-business world, nothing succeeds like speed of execution. "Your time to market can make or break you," says Oddmar A. Sandvik.

Sandvik is the CTO for Seven Mountains, a leading developer of infrastructure software. He believes his company has developed a software solution, called 7M Aspire, that delivers exactly what today's enterprise needs most—a way to rapidly and easily deploy applications to users, regardless of platform, device or location.

Extensively tested on robust IBM @server xSeries servers featuring Intel architecture, 7M Aspire centralizes the control of user access, application management and deployment. As a result, the large enterprise can save on Information Technology (IT) operating costs and accelerate time to market—"the two crucial ingredients for succeeding in today's more mature Internet economy," Sandvik says.

ADP emerging trend

Founded in 1997, Seven Mountains (www.7m.com) is based in Bergen, Norway. Clients come from a wide range of industries including healthcare, commercial and government sectors.

While Sandvik believes Seven Mountains is changing the way applications and content are delivered, it has no hosting facilities, unlike most traditional ASPs. Instead, its 7M Aspire software provides the foundation for what Sandvik considers to be the next hottest business trend on the Internet—the Application Deployment Portal (ADP).

> *"IBM helps us be the best at what we do."*
>
> *Oddmar A. Sandvik*
> *Chief Technology Officer*
> *Seven Mountains*

e business

IBM xSP Prime™ Powering e-business

IBM @server xSeries servers using Intel Pentium processors

intel®

Application Name	Middleware	Database	Operating System	Hardware	Processor
7M Aspire	IBM WebSphere® 4 Advanced Edition	DB2®	Microsoft® Windows® 2000	IBM @server xSeries servers	Intel® Pentium® III and Xeon

In effect, customers access an ADP for centralized management of resources and application access, license usage and reporting—all through a single Web client integrated with the portal. In an ADP environment, 7M Aspire makes it simple to manage the access of many users in many locations to many different applications on different platforms, Sandvik explains.

Scalability key issue

In May of 2001, Seven Mountains wanted to see "how far we could push 7M Aspire—how many users could jump on in a short time frame without compromising response times," Sandvik recalls. To measure the application's scalability, the company turned to IBM, who recommended they visit the IBM xSP Prime Center in Hursley, UK.

Running tests on xSeries 350 servers, the IBM team showed that 7M Aspire was capable of scaling up to 25,000 users logging into the application over a ten-minute period—with consistently low (two-second) response times. While Sandvik admits it was a severe scalability test unlikely to be duplicated outside the labs, it nonetheless gave his large enterprise customers a high degree of confidence in the application.

Equally important was who performed the scalability tests—and on what technology. "IBM analyzing 7M Aspire carried a lot of credibility," he says. "We knew and our customers knew that these results would stand up in the real world." Sandvik adds that the combination of the xSeries servers and Intel processors delivers the reliability, scalability and availability needed in today's demanding Internet economy.

Validating performance of next version

When 7M Aspire was upgraded to a second version, performance became an issue as well. Sandvik explains that any time new code is added to software, there's always the possibility that performance can suddenly drop off or even fall through the floor. "We were able to use IBM resources to make sure that doesn't happen," he says.

Seven Mountains admits it did not have the breadth of hardware to conduct all the scalability and performance tests on 7M Aspire. "We got an enormous amount of help from the xSP Prime specialists in setting up the tests in just the right way. Having access to the wealth of IBM experience and their professional testing environment is something we could not have gotten elsewhere," he says.

For more information

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