

How Cisco IT Increased SAS PM Performance While Decreasing Costs with Cisco UCS B440 Server

BUSINESS BENEFITS

- Met reporting SLA despite having to process more data sources
- Accelerated data allocation from 180 to 50 minutes
- Lowered data center space and power requirements
- Significantly decreased capital costs
- Increased business resilience

"Since moving SAS PM to the Cisco Unified Computing System, we not only can meet our SLA to publish allocated data to the reporting system by 9:00 a.m., we're actually beating the SLA time by up to two hours."

Deepak Maganti, Cisco IT Project Manager

Migrating to Cisco UCS B440 Server from HP mid-range server reduced processing time from 180 to 50 minutes.

Cisco IT developed the Allocation Engine application for agile allocation of costs and revenues. SAS Profitability Management (PM) is integrated with other financial systems that retrieve data from multiple sources and process the data.

As the number of data sources and the volume of data increased, meeting the 9:00 a.m. reporting deadline became increasingly difficult. Reports were delayed by as much as three hours at month-end, impeding timely decision-making.

The source of the delay was inadequate shared memory in the previous platform. When results and associated data are held in shared memory, SAS more quickly executes requests for new scenarios or additional computations.

Cisco IT accelerated SAS PM performance by migrating the application from an HP Integrity rx8640 system to a Cisco UCS B440 Blade Server with 256 GB of RAM. The SAS PM application required no modifications to continue connecting to all upstream and downstream financial systems.

Processing time for cost and revenue allocation decreased from 180 to 50 minutes. As a result, Cisco IT can not only meet the SLA, but also beat it by up to two hours. In addition, preprocessing time decreased from 60 to 5 minutes, and reporting time from 650 to 140 minutes. Faster SAS performance will enable Cisco IT to allocate costs and revenues for individual products in addition to product families.

Migrating SAS PM to the Cisco UCS B440 Server also lowered operational costs. Data center space requirements decreased from 1-1/2 racks to 1/7 rack. Power consumption dropped from 5.5 to 3.5 kilowatts. The number of interfaces for the production, staging, and development servers decreased from 19 to 5.

In addition, the Cisco UCS B440 Blade Server costs less than 10 percent of the HP-UX server it replaced. One reason is that memory is more cost-effective. Cisco IT built 256GB of RAM from 8GB DIMMs operating at full speed (1067 MHz), where the HP-UX server had 56 GB of RAM using 2GB DIMMs operating at 133 MHz.

Finally, migrating SAS PM to the Cisco UCS B440 Blade Server increased business resilience. If the server should fail, Cisco IT can quickly provision any other available blade by applying a Cisco UCS Manager service profile with a few clicks.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To read the entire case study or additional Cisco IT case studies on a variety of business solutions, visit Cisco on Cisco: Inside Cisco IT www.cisco.com/go/ciscoit.

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