

Exalead turns to HP ProLiant for greater peace of mind



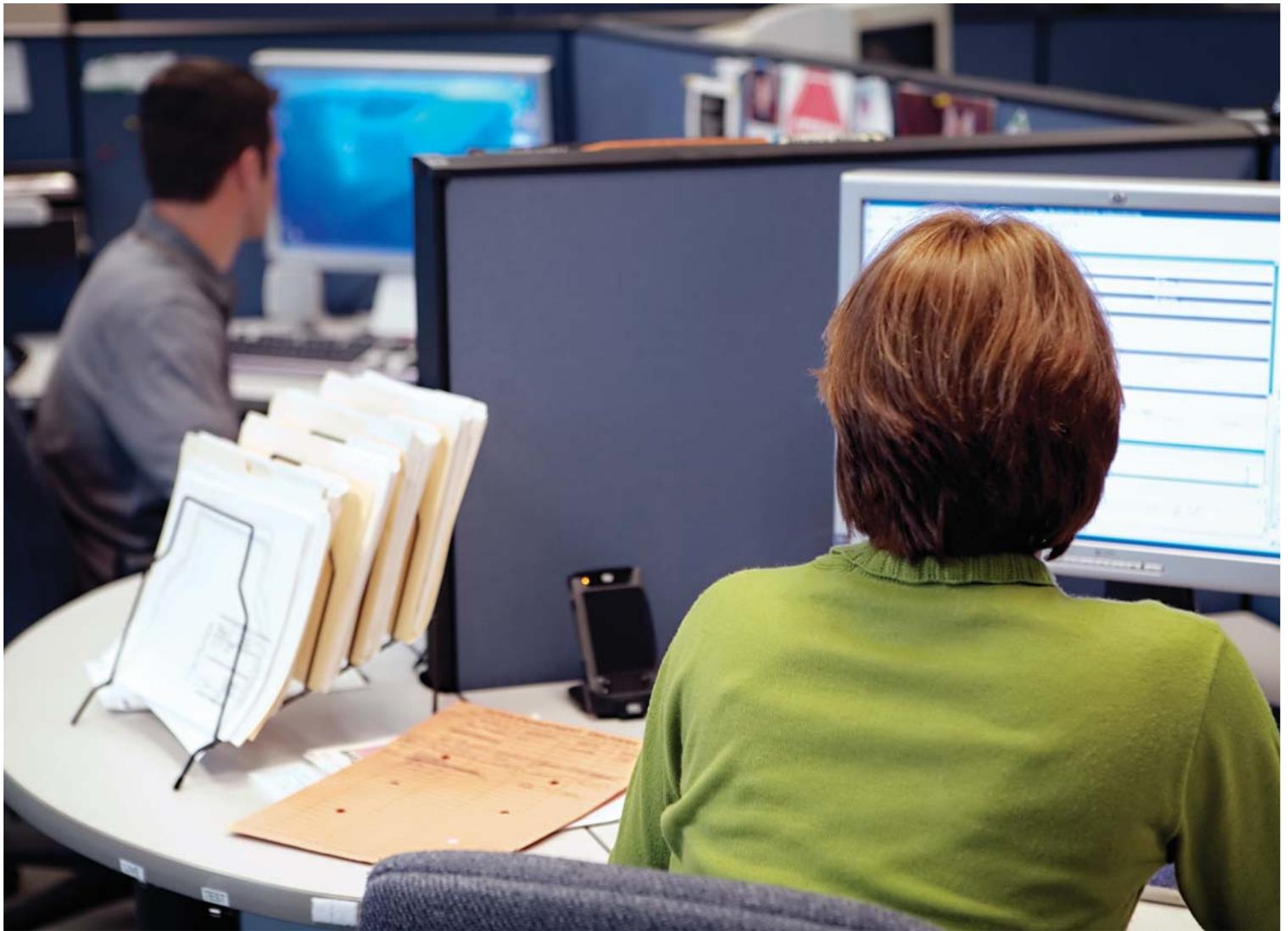
“We chose HP ProLiant DL385 servers with dual core AMD Opteron processors and the new Serial Attached SCSI hard drive technology, as they offer excellent value, performance, optimum memory management and, above all, great peace of mind.”

François Bourdoncle, CEO, Exalead



exalead[™]
SEARCH, EASIER





Founded in 2000 by search-engine pioneers, Exalead (www.exalead.com) is a global provider of software solutions, dedicated to searching for and processing information for organisations of all kinds.

Based on the first and only unified technology platform for desktop, intranet or Web search, Exalead offers easier deployment, administration and use than any other enterprise-type search software. This is true whether for one or thousands of desktops, a small business or global enterprise, and conforms to any technology environment.

Searching made easier

Having observed that business information is increasingly complex and that the methods available to transform this vast amount of knowledge into a real source of value did not meet expectations, Exalead developed a new breed of information access software that stood out from the competition for its ease of deployment and outstanding performance.

The company's unified search technology platform, `exalead one:search`, allows users to search for information from a single access point, whether it is stored in a database, datawarehouse, on networks or messaging systems, or even on PC hard drives. The

software is also fully compliant with existing security policies.

Exalead's goal is to offer the most complete and easy-to-use information access tools on the market, an ambition based on its unique expertise in indexing technology. For this reason, the organisation implemented a high performance system architecture from the day the company was created.

Consolidation enables peak performance

Following several extensive hardware tests, Exalead chose to put performance first and switched from a proprietary UNIX platform to an HP environment, running Linux. 15 HP ProLiant DL585 AMD Opteron quad-processor servers (each with 24GB of memory) were installed, running the linux operating system and 8 HP MSA30 storage bays (SCSI Raid).

To demonstrate the unique user interface design and performance of Exalead's search technology platform, the company released its Internet search engine in 2004. The Internet search engine can be publicly accessed at www.exalead.com. At the time of launch, Exalead had indexed one billion Web pages. To increase the relevance of its Internet search engine, Exalead needed to reach its target of four billion Web

pages quickly. Therefore, Exalead decided to consolidate its existing architecture.

Exalead once again placed its confidence in HP's portfolio, acquiring 32 HP ProLiant DL385 servers with dual core AMD Opteron dual-processors, running at 1.8GHz and with 16GB of memory. This was backed up with 32 HP MSA50 storage bays integrating SAS technology with ten 72GB SAS (Serial Attached SCSI) small form factor 2.5-inch drives (vs. 3.5 inches for current drives) and 32 HP Smart Array P600 SAS eight-port controllers.

Confidence in the HP performance

"Our choice was based on the modularity and high performance of HP servers, offering quality at an affordable price. Every time we have performed a benchmark with our competitors, we have won with the HP platform," says François Bourdoncle, CEO of Exalead.

"The combined technological innovations provided by AMD and HP meet the performance and reliability requirements that we need to achieve our goals," says François Bourdoncle. "With the newly designed

architecture, we have been able to index four times as many Web pages. We believe our HP-based architecture will protect our IT investment and enable us to continue rapid growth."

The storage aspect is similarly praised: SAS technology (which HP was the first IT manufacturer to implement) offers a data transfer rate that exceeds all expectations at 3GB/sec. A theoretical throughput four times faster than parallel SCSI technology, with half the power consumption. In addition, the small form factor of HP MSA50 bays (up to ten drives per 1U) allows a significant space saving in the server racks. With these features, Exalead reduces the total cost of ownership (TCO) as well as support and maintenance costs.

"The combined technological innovations provided by AMD and HP, used to their full potential in the hardware we have just purchased, meet all our needs and challenges in every way," says François Bourdoncle.

"Thanks to the performance they provide, we have been able to index four times as many Web pages. Our HP-based architecture will protect our IT investments and enable us to face the future with great peace of mind."



Challenge

- Increase the number of indexed Web pages from one billion to four billion to strengthen the credibility of Exalead's Internet search engine technology.
- Obtain the best value architecture.

Solution

- Switched from a proprietary UNIX platform to an HP environment, running Linux.
- Consolidated existing architecture.
- HP ProLiant DL385 servers with dual core AMD Opteron bi-processors, HP MSA50 storage bays, SAS small form factor drives, Smart Array P600 SAS controllers.

Results

- Optimised application processing.
- Optimised data storage.
- Small form factor and hard disk power consumption reduced by half.
- Investment protection.
- Reduced total cost of ownership, plus reduced support and maintenance costs.

Customer at a glance

- **Industry sector:** Technology
- **Company:** Exalead
- **Headquarters:** France
- **Founded:** 2000
- **URL:** www.exalead.com

Why HP?

- Modularity and high performance of HP servers at an affordable price.
- HP was the first IT manufacturer to implement SAS Technology, offering a data transfer rate of up to 12GB/sec and power consumption reduced by 50 percent thanks to the new small form factor.
- HP MSA50 1U bay, allows significant space saving.

Hardware

- 32 x HP MSA50 storage bays integrating SAS technology.
- 10 x 72GB SAS (Serial Attached SCSI) small form factor 2.5-inch drives.
- 32 x Smart Array P600 SAS controllers.

For more information on how working with HP can benefit you, please contact your local HP sales representative or reseller, or visit www.hp.com.

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