

Sea Island discovers a first-class solution with IBM @server



Overview

- **The Challenge**

Increase business capabilities through improved server performance and reliability

- **The Solution**

IBM @server systems managing Microsoft® Windows® via an Integrated xSeries Adapter

- **The Benefit**

Powerful, easy-to-manage hardware and software technology that leverages existing infrastructure for cost-effectiveness

A history of hospitality

With a 70-year tradition of hospitality, Sea Island is a world-class residential and resort destination. The renowned home of The Cloister Hotel, Sea Island offers a variety of lavish amenities to attract all types of vacationers. Sea Island has relied on IBM technology since 1973, when it first installed an IBM System/3. Recently, they added an IBM @server iSeries system to manage their hotel reservation system, financial applications and Lotus Notes® electronic mail functions.

To continue providing the highest level of service to its members and guests, Sea Island needed to implement new applications that required Microsoft Windows operating systems and industry-standard server hardware. However, the prospect of deploying approximately 20 individual Intel® processor-based servers to support the anticipated workload was enough to make Pete Smith, Sea Island's director of information services, wince. "We just didn't have the staff to absorb this level of administration," says Smith.

Resorting to the tried and true

With the integrated IBM @server offering—iSeries, xSeries and Integrated xSeries Adapter (IXA)—Smith found the easily managed solution he needed. Sea Island installed an array of xSeries servers connected directly to an iSeries server. The IXAs enable the iSeries server to manage Windows servers, which helped

Sea Island to capitalize on the storage, system and user management capabilities of the iSeries. "We wrote a simple program that could back up and reboot each xSeries every night," says Smith. "All of this is done without human intervention, and it didn't cost us anything."

Sea Island deployed a Citrix MetaFrame XP™ cluster on its xSeries servers running Microsoft Windows 2000. MetaFrame provides a single point of control over Windows applications and data files. Smith and his team can now use the xSeries servers to instantly make new applications, or revisions to existing applications, available to all client desktops. In addition, employees are able to easily access the network by logging onto any one of many IBM NetVista® thin clients attached to Sea Island's 1GB Ethernet fiber backbone.

"We've had a great experience with IBM @server hardware and tools. We couldn't be happier with IBM." –Pete Smith, director of information services, Sea Island Company

IBM Global Services also helped Sea Island divide the iSeries storage into two logical partitions and spread the applications on the xSeries servers across these two partitions to ensure the highest level of availability and redundancy. "Now even taking the iSeries down for backup doesn't affect service," says Smith.

Basking in the benefits

Using the latest IBM technology to integrate its IBM @server machines, Sea Island is able to provide its members and guests with the cutting-edge services they demand, while preserving its investment in its existing systems.

Later this year, Sea Island plans to take advantage of additional IBM @server functionality. "We will deploy a full, high-availability solution that will enable us to be online and support world-class guest service 100 percent of the time," says Smith.

For more information

Visit the following Web sites:

ibm.com/eserver/xseries

**ibm.com/eserver/ieseries/
windowsintegration**

www.seaisland.com



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