CENTRE FOR RAILWAY INFORMATION SYSTEMS

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BACKGROUND

In July of 1987, The Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS) of India was organized and became the primary provider of IT consulting for the India railways. It focuses most of its efforts on the development of major computer systems for the modernization of the railways.

CHALLENGE

The Indian railway system is the largest in Asia and second largest in the world. It employs hundreds of thousands of workers and operates specialized railway hospitals for its numerous employees. Each railway hospital is designed to provide total patient healthcare to railway workers and their dependents; however, the railway hospitals were struggling to offer such service and could not properly register, track, analyze, and maintain the confidentiality of railway personnel medical records. In response to this growing problem, CRIS began developing a new software application for the railway hospitals. Still, CRIS needed a reliable and secure applications platform to support the software.

"We realized that in order for our custom application to be adopted by railway hospitals it had to come with a secure operating system that would support all of the application's functions," said Ajay Sirvastava, manager, Centre for Railway Information Systems. "Also, because of high patient volume at each hospital we knew we needed a powerful operating system that could handle high influxes of data throughout the day."

SOLUTION

For the last eight years, CRIS has used and trusted SCO UNIX for its security and reliability needs and thus decided to build its custom software application on SCO OpenServer 6. "SCO UNIX is robust and stable, and in the eight years that we've been using it, it has never crashed on us," said Sirvastava.

RESULTS

The first CRIS software application running on OpenServer 6 was recently rolled out to two regional railways in southeast and central India, and is now being systematically rolled out to the remaining 16 regional railways in India.

"Because of the processing power, reliability and security provided by OpenServer 6, railway hospitals were able to fully adopt our new software," said Srivastava. "SCO platforms are reliable, and can handle extremely heavy workloads, which is something that is very hard to find in today's operating systems. SCO meets and exceeds all of our expectations."

With OpenServer and CRIS in place, India railway hospital personnel can now use their custom software application to assign unique numbers to patients simplifying the medical record identification process. All patient records are now stored according to the unique patient id number, enabling providers throughout the railway's hospital system to have immediate access to the patient's record of lab tests and x-rays, significantly limiting the amount of paper work needed by medical personnel to analyze a patient and their history.

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