Office Depot

As a large global retailer, Office Depot knows the challenges of managing a complex enterprise that requires 24/7 uptime. Simplifying its IT environment with SUSE Linux Enterprise Server has helped Office Depot reduce IT costs, while maintaining superior stability and performance.

Overview
Office Depot provides more office products and services to more customers in more countries than any other company and is one of the world’s largest e-commerce retailers. With annual sales of more than $15.4 billion, the company sells to customers directly or through affiliates in 43 countries and employs approximately 52,000 associates worldwide.

Challenge
Office Depot has grown its large global business both organically and through acquisitions. As a result, the company runs applications on a variety of platforms including UNIX, Windows, Linux and AS/400 systems. To reduce complexity and control costs, the company wanted to standardize its IT environment as much as possible.

Speed to market in developing IT applications is also a key enabler of Office Depot’s innovative business. An open platform would provide the flexibility to deliver applications across its enterprise, without huge costs. Moving to Linux would also help the company maintain the required levels of security and stability for a global business that operates 24/7.

Solution
To streamline its IT environment, Office Depot evaluated a number of application and server solutions before selecting SUSE Linux Enterprise Server.

“SUSE was compelling because SUSE Linux Enterprise Server has the endorsement of IBM and many big companies,” said Tim Toews, senior vice president and CIO of Office Depot. “SUSE knows how to support a company like ours that is large and geographically dispersed. It is critical for us to have a vendor who can provide enterprise-wide support.”

Office Depot is running several mission-critical workloads on SUSE Linux Enterprise Server including databases, middleware and applications. The company runs Oracle RAC on Linux, as well as a number of Oracle middleware and e-business modules on two-way and four-way HP servers.

“Our strategy is to run SUSE Linux Enterprise wherever pragmatic and possible,” said Toews. “The cost dynamics of running large-scale applications on commodity servers make SUSE Linux Enterprise a very compelling platform.”

“SUSE knows how to support a company like ours that is large and geographically dispersed. It is critical for us to have a vendor who can provide enterprise-wide support.”

TIM TOEWS
Senior Vice President and CIO
Office Depot
“SUSE Linux Enterprise Server has been an excellent investment for us and is the cornerstone of our global Linux strategy. We have deployed critical business applications and IT infrastructure on Linux with great success.”

TIM TOEWS
Senior Vice President and CIO
Office Depot

To read more customer success stories, visit: www.suse.com/success

Contact your local SUSE Solutions Provider, or call SUSE at:
1 800 796 3700 U.S./Canada
1 801 861 4500 Worldwide

SUSE
Maxfeldstrasse 5
90409 Nuremberg
Germany

Having an open enterprise with SUSE Linux Enterprise Server has also opened up new opportunities for the IT staff to enhance their skill sets and keep up with the latest technology.

“Open source is a great motivator for our IT staff,” said Toews. “They are excited about working with modern technology and enjoy working for an organization that is keeping pace with the industry.”

Results
SUSE Linux Enterprise Server allows Office Depot to simplify and standardize its IT environment, while maintaining superior performance. By moving to an open platform, the company has dramatically reduced its hardware costs with the ability to run on commodity hardware. Consolidating servers has also helped reduce hardware costs, as well as power and cooling costs.

Office Depot has also reduced IT costs by moving many of its global ERP applications to SUSE Linux Enterprise Server. The company estimates that its SUSE solutions paid for themselves in the first year.

“SUSE Linux Enterprise Server has been an excellent investment for us and is the cornerstone of our global Linux strategy,” said Toews. “We have deployed critical business applications and IT infrastructure on Linux with great success. Without SUSE, we would have been forced to find other solutions that would have been far more costly and complex.”

geren