

CASE STUDY: Sahara Family India



Client Overview

Sahara India is a 6 Billion USD diversified conglomerate, with business interest in Public Deposit Mobilization, Housing, Aviation, Media & Entertainment and Our New & Forthcoming Projects like Consumer Products, Information Technology - Sahara Net, Sahara Hospital, Araria Jute Project, Sundarban Project & Agriculture Project. World's largest single family with over 600,000 members.

The Challenge

The choice was with Most prevailing messaging architecture like Lotus Domino, Microsoft's Exchange server. Netscape Messaging Server, Novell GroupWise, Postfix, Qmail, Sendmail was available. Sahara's team took a closer look, the options were dependent on operating system to a very great extent, except collaborative solutions like Lotus Domino's which were available over multiple platforms. They compared lot other aspect of Mail environment and took a unanimous decision of deploying Linux with Qmail architecture.

As the organization is so multifaceted and wide spread the cost of deployment was going to be very high, but Linux deployment has cut down the cost without compromising anything in way that company was able to get their ROI within 6 months of deployment.

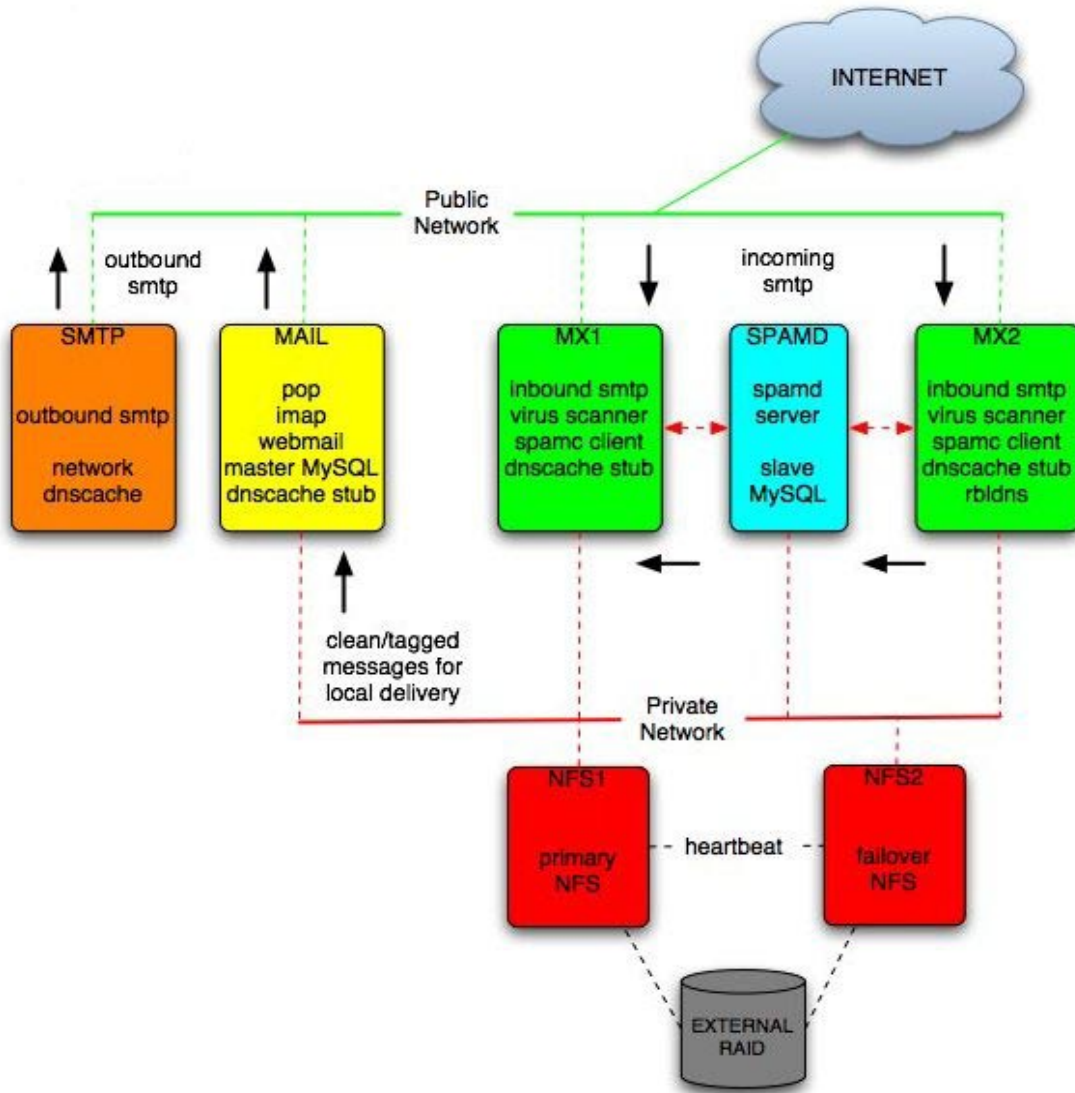
Solution

Real Time Linux Advantage

| Applications | E-Mail Server with cluster , LDAP database |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Installed Platform | Suse Linux with Qmail LDAP working in Cluster mode. |
| Platform | in Cluster mode. |
| Hardware Platforms | Compaq ML560/530 Servers on High speed Internet back bone and ATM networks |
| Services | Over 1400 Locations are supported |
| Applications | E-Mail Server with cluster , LDAP database |
| Number of Servers | 12 |
| Number of Domains | 200 |
| Number of users | 20000 |
| Number of users added every year | 6000 |
| Scalability | Upto 5 Million users |
| Expandability | Collaborative applications like eGrupware and OpenGroupware |

Server Uptime

99.9%



Architecture Diagram for Main Site



Achievements

Since the implementation of its Email system with Qmail-LDAP running under Redhat Linux, Sahara has observed that applications run from six to nine times faster than they did on Microsoft Windows servers. Costs are running at 5% percent of the costs for Windows servers because of reduced administrative support requirements, minimal licensing fees and faster responses.

Configuration and deployment of the location servers takes two-to-three hours as opposed to days for new Windows. Through it all, the company hasn't had to increase its IT support staff. Both Open-systems and support groups have rallied very effectively around the Linux platform. More so the comfort level wide spread user community has tremendously increased. It is a pure case of Linux advantage what Sahara has today.

Client Testimonial

"We would also like to appreciate Linux and its community by which e-mails has become our major communication channel"

Supriyo Mookherjee, AGM Telecom, Sahara Net – Lucknow (INDIA)