

SWS Cleans Up with ACUCOBOL™-GT on Linux

Industry: Hazardous Waste Cleanup
Current Environment: Linux
Application: Business Software
Acucorp Products: ACUCOBOL™-GT
Previous Environment: Novell
Previous COBOL: ACUCOBOL



Photo by Diane Gregg

Archie Gresham, System Administrator for Southern Waste Services, managed SWS's clean transition from Novell to Linux.

By Jo Foster

Southern Waste Services Inc. (SWS), earns \$10 million a year cleaning up petroleum, hazardous material and biohazardous waste spills throughout the United States. But SWS had a hazard of its own—a communication hazard that threatened the 12-year-old company's future.

SWS, which was managing its business by mailing floppy disks and paper files, needed to electronically link facilities in Alabama, Florida and Georgia to a central business data computer.

ACUCOBOL & Linux Join the SWS Team

SWS was operating on a Pentium™ class server, a Novell operating system and Southware business software which was written in ACUCOBOL from Acucorp, Inc. The

challenge was to network its four major service centers over a low bandwidth frame relay. "We needed a manageable, efficient, cost-effective system for sharing business data over a wide-area network (WAN)," said Archie Gresham, system administrator for SWS. The Novell/DOS system was not the most suitable for use in a WAN environment so it was also imperative that SWS find an operating system suitable to a WAN and capable of providing not only file and print sharing, but also true application serving.

In order for SWS to find its networking system solution, it turned to information technology consultant Lawrence Levine of SecurePipe

Communications. The options that were considered initially were either too expensive or did not effectively address the inherent problems with running a DOS based application

over a WAN.

The solution for SWS became apparent when it turned its attentions to the Linux operating system. SWS's business system is written in ACUCOBOL.

ACUCOBOL is the only legacy COBOL extension tool that can be ported to Linux. By choosing Linux, SWS was able to retain its valuable legacy business data and avoid purchasing costly new software and rewriting its business applications.

"ACUCOBOL on Linux was the most

PARTNERS IN SUCCESS

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effective means of extending their business system over a wide-area network, and its stability mitigated all serious business risks," said Levine. "The fact that Acucorp had ACUCOBOL-GT running on Linux as far back as two years ago was the enabling factor for us to take this direction and showed tremendous foresight on their part."

Novell To Linux In One Day

The migration from Novell to Linux was completed within one day with flawless results, according to Gresham. The ACUCOBOL-GT/Linux system has been up and running without downtime for SWS for the last 20 months.

Linux is fully capable of being managed remotely, which translates to cost savings on IT personnel for SWS. Also it enables users to gain secure system access to their business system via the Internet, something they could not do with the old system. The flexibility of the ACUCOBOL-GT/Linux system has positioned SWS to meet the challenges of future system requirements.

Mission Success

The benefits from the ACUCOBOL-GT/Linux system were immediately apparent. The service centers can provide clients with project data on a daily basis. This is crucial since SWS deals exclusively with emergency response situations. "Better still, the company can provide invoices as soon as the project is completed, which greatly improves cash flow. Our clients may not notice the difference, but it's great news for SWS," Gresham smiles.

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