

CASE STUDY

MRE Consulting's Infrastructure Solutions Improved CTRM Efficiency



CHALLENGE

The North American arm of an international natural gas company was experiencing unexpected and costly outages in its flagship marketing and trading business unit. These outages affected OpenLink Endur, the business unit's front- and back-office CTRM solution. Without reliable, consistent access to this critical application, the company's fastest-growing and most lucrative business unit in the United States was at a standstill.

SOLUTION

Technology experts from MRE investigated the outages and quickly identified the cause: the business interruptions were the direct result of inefficient infrastructure. The application and database installations lacked redundancy, allowing a single failure to shut down the entire system.

To resolve these issues, reduce overall costs and provide added benefits, MRE recommended virtualizing the entire application stack using a private cloud. MRE employees then used a combination of VMware ESX, HP Blade servers, EMC Symmetrix storage and Cisco networking to create a cloud with the highest levels of availability and redundancy. Finally, Citrix was implemented to deliver the end-user application interface for Endur. Personnel from the client's staff and MRE Consulting worked collaboratively throughout the process.

RESULTS

The end result was a centralized front- and back-office CTRM solution housed in a controlled, Tier 4 data center. Every hardware component was installed in a redundant fashion, ensuring 99.9999% availability. With virtualized back-office applications and databases accessible from anywhere in the world, the client was able to quickly penetrate new markets in Australia, Singapore and the United Kingdom without having to invest in separate solutions for each country.

The ease of supporting this platform enabled the marketing and trading group to focus its IT resources on more business-enabling efforts. MRE continues to provide the client with subject-matter experts and assist with its cloud initiatives.

BENEFITS:

- Completely centralized solution
- Fully redundant hardware and applications
- Automatic failure detection and failover configurations
- 99.9999% availability
- No single points of failure
- All back-office applications and databases accessible through private cloud

