BITUG SPRING 2014 NEWSLETTER

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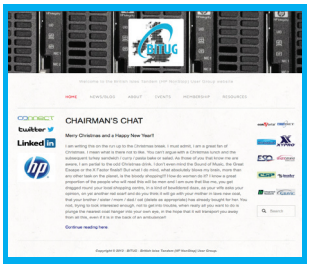
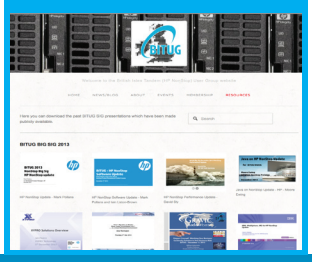


NEW BITUG WEBSITE

It's something which has been on the to-do list for a while, but we've finally got around to giving the BITUG website an overhaul.

You'll hopefully find it easier on the eye and easier to navigate around.

As well as the new look, we've added a couple new touches including a comprehensive list of hardware and software solution providers by category. If you have any suggestions for further improvements please drop us a line at webmaster@bitug.com



CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

Welcome to the Spring 2014 BITUG Newsletter

It's a cliché I know, but as I write this I can't believe it's the end of March already. The trade show season for us vendors is in full swing, I am actually sitting in a hotel basement in London right now typing this in between coffee breaks at this years 'E-Crime' summit.

BITUG have our first event of 2014 in a few weeks, this year's 'Little SIG' will be on Tuesday 20th May and is being very kindly hosted by HP at their Wood Street offices in London. The agenda is coming together nicely and further details about the event can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. Our mantra for quite a while has been to include as many end user presentations as possible and 2014's Little SIG is stacking up rather well in this department with three end user presentations in total, along with a technical update from HP and the first public keynote from Dave McLeod following him taking up his new role as EMEA NonStop Director for HP. For more information and to register for the event, please go to www.BITUG.com or use the link on page three of this newsletter.

I know I must sound like a broken record, but to keep our end user mantra going we actually need you, the end users, to get up and participate in our events by giving a small talk or an update on what is new or coming up within your organisation. It doesn't need to be long and it doesn't need to be professional...

...end users love listening to other end users. If a topic is relevant to you, I guarantee it will be relevant to many other people...

...in attendance, so with my cheesy American accent switched on, "*think not of what your user group can do for you, but what can you do for your user group*!!!"

Unfortunately we have lost one of our BITUG members this week. I don't mean 'lost' as in 'we can't find him', but Rick Stather, longtime member of the committee and past Chairman has had to hang up his BITUG boots, due to rising work commitments. On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank Rick for all of the work he has done for BITUG over the years and I wish him well for the future.

Well, the next coffee break is nearly upon me, so I will sign off for now and look forward to hopefully seeing you at the Little SIG in May.

Regards,

Sean Bicknell
BITUG Chairman and
European Sales Manager
at XYPRO

LITTLE SIG EDUCATION DAY

Oracle to SQL/MX Quick Start class
Repurposing your Oracle skills to SQL/MX

19TH MAY, 88 WOOD ST, LONDON

If you are considering moving an Oracle database to NonStop SQL/MX or if you are interested in understanding the fundamentals of NonStop SQL/MX this class is for you. This Oracle to SQL/MX Quick Start training gives you a firm foundation in the essential skills needed for managing SQL/MX by leveraging your knowledge of Oracle and other relational databases. In addition, your overall knowledge of database technology is expanded as you learn why cutting-edge database products such as Vertica and Hadoop have adopted the same architecture used by NonStop SQL/MX.

AUTHOR AND INSTRUCTOR

This class was developed and is taught by Debra Labanowski who works as a Database Administrator in the HP Nonstop Advanced Technology Center. Debra has over fourteen years of experience installing, managing and tuning Oracle databases and over seven years of experience managing and tuning SQL/MX databases. She has obtained the following certifications: Oracle DBA v.8i – v.11G, Oracle certified instructor, and SUSE Administrator.

For the past several years Debra has worked as the technical lead on many Oracle to SQL/MX migration projects. She has co-authored two white papers which compare Oracle and SQL/MX on the basis of scalability and mixed-workload support, and has authored many HP internal white papers that are widely used to assist Oracle DBAs in transitioning their skills to SQL/MX.

COURSE TOPICS

Module 1: The operating system, APIs and the connection process
Module 2: The implications of MPP versus SMP
Module 3: Tools and solutions for managing a NonStop system
Module 4: Files and storage structures
Module 5: Schema objects

Tasks related to migrating databases from Oracle to SQL/MX are also addressed.

PRE-REQUISITES AND LOGISTICS

- Pre-requisites: Basic knowledge of database administration in Oracle or a comparable database
- Duration: Seven hours including demonstrations
- When: 19th May 2014
- Where: HP Wood Street offices, London

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

BITUG LITTLE SIG

20th May 2014
88 Wood Street, London

This year's Little SIG will be held at HP's 88 Wood Street offices in London. The day is free to attend for all BITUG Members and is a great opportunity to keep up to date with the latest HP NonStop news and to see presentations by and share knowledge and expertise with fellow NonStop users.

Start Time	Farringdon & Ludgate rooms HP, 88 Wood Street, London
09:00	**Registration, Welcome and Coffee**
09:30	HP Keynote – David McLeod EMEA NonStop Director – HP
10:30 10:50	**Coffee**
10:50	Pathway Migration – Matt Whiteman – Standard Chartered Bank
11:50	J Boss / Oracle to HP NonStop migration – Franz Koenig – HP
12:50 13:50	**Lunch**
13:50	MQ Futures – Rob Waldron – Barclays, Gerry Reilly – IBM, Rick Ploen – comForte
14:50	HP NonStop Update – Iain Liston Brown – HP
15:50 16:00	Roundup and Close

KEYNOTE

HP's new EMEA NonStop Director, David McLeod, will be giving a 'state of the nation' look at NonStop within the HP Server Division, covering several subjects from direction, to initiatives, to ISV solutions and more.

David has a considerable background in NonStop – having been a customer as well as having worked at 'Tandem/Compaq/HP' in Toronto, Amsterdam, London and San Francisco. He feels strongly that the market is moving toward a NonStop world and that many of the myths that have surrounded NonStop - particularly cost and availability of resources - are in a position to be dispelled. David will address these issues in his keynote as well as giving an update on the business and its increasingly bright future.

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

PATHWAY MIGRATION

Matt Whiteman is Senior Tandem Support Analyst Standard Chartered Bank. His Pathway Migration presentation was originally planned for the BIG SIG last December, but had to be postponed, so Matt will be giving his presentation at Little SIG instead.

NEW JAVA TECHNOLOGIES

Master technologist, Franz König, shows how your applications can use modern technologies to exploit the full capabilities of NonStop servers by using a combination of the Java stack, services, open source frameworks and NonStop middleware.

MQ FUTURES

Barclay's Rob Waldron will open this presentation, followed by an MQ update from IBM's Gerry Reilly covering where they are with the changes and time-lines, plans java support etc. Rob will then give an update on where Barclays are and the issues they face. Finally, comForte's Rick Ploen will give a talk on their CS/QMAN solution on how it can add some protection.

BIG SIG PREVIEW

SAVE THE DATE: 2ND DECEMBER

Plans for the 2014 BIG SIG are in the early stages, so very little has been set in stone at this stage, but we do know it will be in a new venue. Maintaining our tradition of hosting the BIG SIG in historic London venues, this year we'll be at One Great George Street in Westminster - a stone's throw from the House of Commons, House of Lords, Big Ben, Chruchill War Rooms and St Stephen's Tavern Pub, to name a few of the more important neighbours...

comForte 21 completes acquisition of the Escort product family from CarrScott Software

comForte 21, a global provider of connectivity, middleware, modernization and security solutions for the HP NonStop platform, announced recently that it has completed the acquisition of the Escort suite of products from CarrScott Software Inc. comForte's acquisition of Escort SQL, Journaling, and RANGER expands the worldwide marketing and support reach of these products by the NonStop experts at comForte.

comForte has traditionally been strong in the security and terminal emulation space. In the past few years, comForte was focused on building up other types of products and services for HP NonStop as well. What was missing in the past was anything to do with databases, but that has changed with the addition of the Escort SQL suite to comForte's product portfolio.

comForte can now help organizations to modernize from the ground-up, meaning databases and middleware; but also from the user-in, which is the user interface side of the application.

By giving NonStop users direct access to a real industry-standard database, they can fundamentally change how the applications manage and exchange data.

At a middleware layer, comForte's Client Server Link (CSL) solution enables organizations to better integrate HP NonStop systems with other platforms in the wider enterprise through the use of modern standards and protocols like web services and SOAP, RSC and the use of a variety of API's.

Last but not least, at a GUI level, with JPath customers can convert the traditional green screens into 21st century Windows-type screens making the GUI a lot more usable, efficient and user-friendly.

Surveys show that a high percentage of IT departments around the world would happily embark on modernizing their legacy applications if only they could somehow significantly lower the risk of application modernization. comForte is now in a unique position to help organization to do exactly that - reduce the risk of application modernization with the help of comForte's solutions.

NONSTOP DIARY DATES

BITUG Little SIG Education day

19th May, HP Offices, London

BITUG Little SIG

20th May, HP Offices, London

NonStop Technical Boot Camp

16-19th Nov, Hayes Manson, San Jose, CA, USA

BITUG BIG SIG

2nd Dec. 1 Great George St, London

PREMIER OFFERING? NONSTOP RULES, OK!

BY RICHARD BUCKLE

There's always something exciting sitting down at the desk, hands on keyboard, and thinking about an upcoming story line. It was very kind of the management of this publication to invite me to write, as it is something I enjoy doing as there's seldom a story or feature published here that doesn't generate some sort of response. Writing for BITUG though does bring with it a number of caveats, of course. Don't wax eloquently about all things Moonshot! Don't labor the point over the antiquity of IBM's mainframe. And for goodness sake, don't mention the cricket!

Having lived in London for almost a year – does Croydon count? Then a couple of years in Canada – again, is Edmonton, Alberta, truly representative of all things Canadian? Finally settling down in the US after stints living in Dallas (Texas), Raleigh (North Carolina), Cupertino (California) and finally Boulder (Colorado) entitle me to think and write as someone with a global outlook?

My relationship with Tandem on the other hand tracks my gradual move away from being IBM mainframe, focused to where networking became more interesting, to where, in the end, it was all about the protocols and services. My very last public presentation at a user event in London, on behalf of Tandem Computers (back in the early 1990s) when I was the product management group manager leading a team of folks focused on all things networking featured an introduction to a whole new world of comms on the S-Series.

The S-Series proved to be a major milestone for Tandem, all those years ago, with the strategy for comms undergoing a reversal. In the pre-S-Series times WAN support had been provided via as an integral part of the system while LANs were handled via an external gateway – remember the Tandem LAN Access Method (TLAM)/Multilan subsystem? But with the introduction of the S-Series, support for LANs was integrated into the system leaving WAN connectivity to be handled by external controllers. And we have lived with this model ever since.

While my relationship with Tandem saw me becoming more focused on networking it seemed my lot in life to be never too far removed from SNA. Even today, the shadow of SNA stretches out across Tandem – perhaps not as influential at the Physical Control and Data Link Control layers, but up at the higher layers where APIs are supported it's influence remains. Few product managers that I can recall ever oversaw SNAX then ICE and finally uLinga – but I guess that's the penance I am paying for sticking with what I like to do.

Today, it's no longer Tandem we describe and address in posts and commentaries, but rather NonStop. Tandem Computers have become NonStop systems and that's an important shift for all who have been associated with the platform. The former Tandem was a closed system based on proprietary technology whereas today's modern NonStop systems are open and based on industry standard (indeed, industry leading) technology...

...partnering with Intel has proved to be a huge win for NonStop...

...and for the current NonStop management to announce plans to support Intel x86 architecture, there's now a product roadmap that doesn't just suddenly end. As one vendor remarked, with the announcement of plans to support x86, NonStop avoids falling off the chip-set cliff!

It is not lightly said or something we talk about without being sensitive to just how far we have come, but NonStop remains the premier offering when it comes to supporting mission-critical transactional systems – there's still far too many "drivers" necessitating an IBM System z mainframe, a Unix / Oracle or even a Windows / SQL Server be taken down by administrators. The architects behind these platforms never designed the systems for true 24 x 7 x 365 operation nor did the bean counters behind them encourage support for near-linear scalability. And yet, with modern NonStop systems we get both and for that, we need to thank the architects that understood the value of the "integrated stack" whereby hardware, the OS, the database and transaction monitor all are aware of each other.

Today, we have NonStop systems running on Blades that, with the release of NonStop on Intel's x86 architecture, will be the same as those in support of Windows and Linux. No differences as best as I can tell and with the support of InfiniBand, the proverbial differentiating Mezzanine cards in support of ServerNet (that separated NonStop blades from others) will disappear. And that will just be the beginning. Yes, NonStop will roll on as the premier offering for running mission critical transaction systems for quite a while even as it embraces hybrid computer configurations and straddles cloud computing.

NonStop has always relished hybrid configurations – ever since the first bank deployed a NonStop system as an intelligent front end connected to Automatic Teller Machines, NonStop systems' fate as a hybrid player was sealed. As for clouds, then expect many enterprises to take a fresh look at NonStop and to deploy NonStop straddling multiple cloud resources providing security as well as cloud take-over. Realistically though, it's going to surprise many inside HP that given the Megatrends of Mobility, Big Data, Hybrid and Cloud, NonStop could be easily positioned not just as the premier offering but as HP's "Halo Product" in more than one of these strategic areas.

Wrapping up this first post, again I am thankful to have been invited to post and in the coming months, look for more insight into the value proposition of NonStop – something I think is too often understated. And if you think I have missed something, or perhaps, skipped something relevant for you then feel free to contact me at richard@pyalla-technologies.com and as always, I will respond with as straight a bat as I can play!

EVEN NONSTOP SYSTEMS ARE NOT IMPERVIOUS TO DDOS ATTACKS

BY BILL HIGHLEYMAN

HP NonStop systems are fault-tolerant. They can survive any single point-of-failure. Well, almost. Even NonStop systems are useless if you can't get to them. And that is what a DDoS (Distributed Denial of Service) attack can do to your NonStop applications and services that depend upon Internet access.

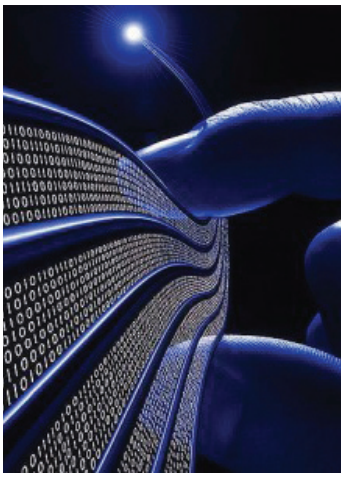
What is a DDoS attack? It is a malicious launching of so much network traffic to your customer-facing services that no legitimate user can gain access to them. A particularly nasty type of attack is a DNS reflection attack, in which just a few phony DNS requests with your address spoofed as the requestor can return a hundred times the amount of traffic to your systems. Can your communication front-end handle hundreds of gigabytes per second of incoming traffic?

DDoS attacks are launched for a variety of reasons, from competitive to retaliatory. They can range up to hundreds of gigabytes of attack data per second and can last for days. Recently, several major U.S. banking portals were taken down for most of the day on several days with DDoS attacks launched by hackers protesting an offensive YouTube video entitled "Innocence of Muslims."

DDoS attacks are launched by botnets of thousands of PCs that are infected with DDoS malware. These attacks are becoming easier and easier to launch. A 10,000-agent botnet can be rented for $200 per day. Powerful DDoS malware that is easy to use even by novices is available on the Internet. Using DNS reflection, such botnets and malware can easily overcome any reasonable defenses that your organisation may deploy. In fact, the malware will measure the effectiveness of its attack, determine the defenses being used, and modify its attack to bypass those defenses.

The best way to protect your NonStop systems against DDoS attacks is to subscribe to a DDoS mitigation service. They are large clouds staffed with personnel knowledgeable in DDoS attacks. These services will spread your attack traffic over their massive distributed clouds, scrub the traffic to eliminate malicious traffic, and return just the legitimate traffic to your site. Their staff can monitor the changing nature of the attack and can modify their mitigation procedures as necessary to be most effective. Mitigation service providers include Prolexic, Tata Communications, AT&T, and Verisign.

You have made significant investments in your NonStop systems so that you can provide continuous availability for your services. Now is not the time to see that investment be rendered meaningless by a concerted DDoS attack against your organization. It is time to plan and implement a second layer of fault tolerance to that provided by your NonStop systems to combat the growing frequency of these devastating attacks.



About Bill

Bill is Managing Editor of the Availability Digest and Chairman of Sombers Associates. He has been responsible for implementing dozens of real-time mission-critical systems for companies such as Amtrak, Dow Jones, Time, Tandem, FedEx, SIAC, Smith Kline, G. E. Credit, Southeast Bank, Harris Satellite and more.

NEWS

NonStop NS2300 & NS2400 entry class servers

HP has announced new entry class NonStop servers using the latest generation microprocessors from Intel. The Integrity NonStop NS2300 and NS2400 servers are powered by the Intel Itanium 9500 series processor delivering the same availability and data integrity as the HP Integrity NonStop BladeSystems. Both new systems require a minimum of the J06.17 RVU of the mission critical NonStop OS.

The Integrity NonStop NS2400 server family provides a dual core Itanium 9500 processor per CPU with memory configurations of 16GB, 32GB and 48GB per CPU. The NS2400 is limited to 4 CPUs, 200 direct attached SAS disks per system and clustering using Expand-over-IP like the previous NS2200 family. For the telecommunications market there is an NS2400T commercial rack product and an NS2400ST seismic rack product.

The Integrity NonStop NS2300 server family provides a single core Itanium 9500 processor per CPU also with memory configurations of 16GB, 32GB and 48GB per CPU. Core licensing is not available for the NS2300 like its predecessor the NS2100. The NS2300 represents the most affordable price point for an HP NonStop server but can be configured with 200 direct attached disks per system and clustering using Expand-over-IP.

Both the Integrity NonStop NS2300 and NS2400 servers can attach to StorageWorks P9500 enterprise storage arrays and can use both traditional HDD and also SSD SAS disk technology for direct attached disks. Both NS2300 and NS2400 are available immediately. More information can be found here: http://h20195.www2.hp.com/V2/GetDocument.aspx?docname=4AA5-0868ENW&cc=us&lc=en

HP BackBox Virtual Tape Controller

The HP BackBox Virtual Tape Controller solution is now available to order. HP BackBox allows backup consolidation across multiple NonStop servers, improves the backup performance shrinking backup windows, eliminates the necessity for physical tape, enables disaster recovery backup replication without physical tape, provides a high availability backup solution and integrates backups for NonStop into the latest storage technology.

HP BackBox Virtual Tape Controllers can be used stand-alone with internal storage or can integrate with dedup technology such as HP StoreOnce reducing the storage requirement for backup data. HP BackBox management software, metadata and catalogs reside on the HP NonStop for a reliable and resilient backup solution. More information can be found here: http://h20195.www2.hp.com/V2/GetDocument.aspx?docname=4AA5-0873ENW&cc=us&lc=en

J06.17 and H06.28 NonStop OS RVU release

HP has announced availability of the J06.17 and H06.28 operating system RVUs from 11th March 2014. Highlights in these RVUs include SQL/MX 3.2.1, ODBC/MX 64 bit client driver, OSS scripting via Python 2.7.5, NonStop Server for Java 7.0 update 1, JToolkit for NonStop Server for Java 6.0 and 7.0 and iTP Webserver 7.5. The new entry class Integrity NonStop NS2300 and NS2400 servers require at least the J06.17 release of the NonStop OS.

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