SUCCESS STORY—
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

THE POWER
OF UNIX®

SCO helps military to WRAM home changes.

THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) ensures the security and defence of the United Kingdom and the Overseas Territories, and supports the Government's foreign policy objectives, particularly in promoting international peace and security.

PROBLEM

The MOD was faced with the challenge of integrating Army, Navy and RAF IT practices, whilst also increasing cost savings. The decision was taken to introduce a new asset management system for the Army's fleet of helicopters that would enable engineers to manage the fleet from central locations. This Work Recording and Asset Management System (WRAM) had to negate the need for time-consuming information trawls, in which data is collated about individual aircraft in preparation for modification or maintenance work.

According to Commander Terry O'Reilly of the Ministry of Defence: "After a systems review, it was recommended that the Army should move to an IT-based system. The Navy was already using the WRAM system, so that meant it would be fully deployable and would help converge Army and Navy practices."

SOLUTION

SCO developed a front-end graphical user interface (GUI) for the MOD in order to provide an easy to use and secure logistics solution. The GUI was based on SCO's UnixWare operating system and designed by SCO's Professional Services division in conjunction with Spirent Systems.

The SCO UnixWare 7 software is clustered using SCO's Reliant HA to provide high availability, while the implementation of Tarantella web enabling software allows the WRAM technology to be accessed via an industry standard browser that enables users to gain secure access to any application, from anywhere.

RESULTS

Once the roll-out of WRAM is completed across six major sites in the UK and Europe, over 1200 users will be able to access up to date information on 240 aircraft. The system is critical to the safety of the helicopters and the efficient management of the Army's inventory.

"Many of the components for our helicopters are extremely valuable and can be worth thousands of pounds each. By accurately tracking their life cycle we envisage potential cost savings in the region of millions of pounds," explains Commander O'Reilly.

The introduction of WRAM also ties in with the Army's new streamlined approach to stock control. "The days of having lots of spares have gone," says Commander O'Reilly. "We learned from industry that just in time procurement was more effective and we needed a system that would help us manage these decisions."

Commander O'Reilly concludes: "The changes in the armed forces are being driven by commercial practices adopted from large conglomerates, with the aim being to work smarter and converge the business. WRAM and SCO's UnixWare operating system will help us do that."

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

The Army's new Work Recording and Asset Management (WRAM) system signifies a new military era in which integration is key. To ensure its success, SCO developed a front-end graphical user interface that, along with its Authentication solution, creates an easy-to-use and secure logistics solution.

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