



m-spatial protects critical databases from down time with LifeKeeper for Oracle

“Our configuration means that the application doesn’t notice when SteelEye LifeKeeper fails over Oracle – therefore we get very close to zero downtime.”

Established in 2001, m-spatial are specialists in the delivery of maps, directions and other spatial components for use on mass-market mobile devices. Its customers include Vodafone, O2 and Orange. m-spatial’s managed service product, MapWay, provides network operators with both the ability to deliver standalone maps and directions services to their customers, and also to incorporate m-spatial’s maps, directions and other spatial components into third party content services.

Chris Good, IT Manager, m-spatial said:
“The greatest benefit for us is that our applications are able to continue running, unaware that an Oracle database has failed over. This allows us to achieve close to zero downtime.”



SteelEye LifeKeeper from Open Minds have enabled us to get the Highly Available service that the telcos are demanding at a cost-effective price point.”

m-spatial chose Lifekeeper

“We have been able to maximise our investment in our high availability cluster by implementing SteelEye LifeKeeper in an active/active mode. The second server in the cluster is used to run other vital service components – using this active/active configuration means that there is no need for redundant hardware to act as a standby server.”

When planning and designing their systems, m-spatial aimed to achieve maximum availability of their MapWay service with a minimum investment. Mobile network operators demand a very high level of service and are not tolerant of downtime. The maps, directions and other service components have to be constantly available. If the service were to suffer significant downtime then this would lead to a risk of m-spatial failing to meet its contractual service level agreements. In addition, mobile phone users demand high speed response and continuous service availability - once users of mobile mapping services rely on their phone as their method of choice for obtaining maps and directions, service downtime is simply not acceptable.

For these reasons, m-spatial needed to ensure continuity of operations for every element of the solution as well as minimising the cost of providing the service, so every element of the solution was looked at with both of these considerations in mind.

m-spatial has integrated LifeKeeper high-availability clustering software into the existing Oracle-based system to help protect it from downtime. Open Minds, the SteelEye Competence and Support Centre for the UK and Ireland, were able to provide the necessary support and expertise to show m-spatial how the Lifekeeper for Linux solution provided the highest availability at the lowest possible cost.



Solution Details

"The combination of industry standard servers, operating systems and LifeKeeper have supported our requirement for high availability with low total cost of ownership. We have been running the system for a year now, and can speak from experience about the benefits to our whole solution of incorporating highly available Linux clusters to provide a high level of service to our users."

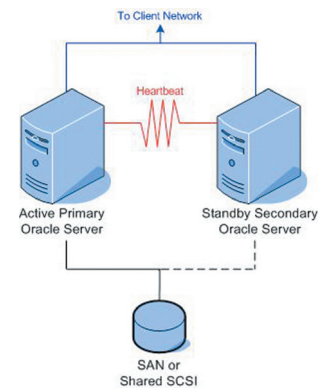
Chris Good expanded:
"We were very aware that solutions that incorporated high resilience existed, but our budgetary constraints meant that we were looking for high-end resilience for low-end investment."

The HP ProLiant DL380 Packaged Cluster provided us with hardware resilience, but we needed more. We needed application resilience.

Again, we looked at the market and found some very high cost options for application resilience, but we wanted to minimise our investment. Linux reduced our licence fees, but without the ability to cluster with SteelEye LifeKeeper it would not have been a viable solution for us. SteelEye LifeKeeper gave us the ability to configure a standby server without increasing our licence fees. We added clustering capabilities to Oracle

Standard Edition, so Enterprise Edition was not necessary; this in itself has represented a significant saving.

We used Open Minds to help us put the solution together from then initial evaluation stage through to implementation. Using their expertise in the hardware and the way that the solution was put together, we managed to implement the solution without any hiccups."



A Cost-Effective Solution

Oracle is at the core of the m-spatial system and is vital to the service. LifeKeeper protects the Oracle database from downtime, and provides recovery from failures in less than 60 seconds.

By installing Oracle software on shared storage, there is no requirement to purchase two licences to support high availability or disaster recovery. Provided the second licence is not used

for more than a few days a week, it can be installed on a shared storage device and be started from either server.

"The results speak for themselves," continued Chris, "We now have signed up Vodafone, O2 and Orange, enabling the majority of the UK market to use their mobile phones to get maps and directions from our systems."

About Open Minds

"It is difficult to say exactly how much downtime has been saved by the LifeKeeper clustering solution but we have maintained uninterrupted service during events that would otherwise could have caused hours of downtime. With the reassurance and failover that LifeKeeper provides we have also been able to perform system maintenance and upgrades without affecting end users."

Open Minds provide software solutions, support, consultancy and training for High Availability, and Disaster Recovery solutions for IT systems. A strong team of technical consultants offer experience gained from many years of successfully installing and supporting LifeKeeper solutions throughout the world in order to implement effective and easily maintained High Availability Solutions.

Open Minds is the registered SteelEye competence centre for the United Kingdom and Ireland. We have longstanding partnerships with VAR's, Software Houses and Systems

Integrators to provide a full technical backup including pre-sales, installation services and support required to fully implement a high-availability solution.

For more information, please visit www.openminds.co.uk

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