



SteelEye LifeKeeper for Linux Improves Quants Research System Reliability and Reduces IT Cost

Quants Research makes use of advanced technology to support academic research, consulting, market research, systems development, business planning and system services in the financial information management field. The corporate financial data which Quants Research evaluates is combined with value-added analysis and then delivered to customers for their use in further research, typically as a basis for making investment decisions. Quants Research is one of a small number of companies with specialization in the use of advanced analysis and engineering techniques to perform detailed corporate financial analysis. Customers of Quants Research come from a variety of markets including securities, insurance, banking, real estate, and individual investors. Stock analysis, asset management, a financial simulation system and a real estate evaluation system are widely offered through both an ASP model and as a packaged software solution.

Solution Demands 24-by-7 Availability

With the need for Quants Research services to be always available, management made the decision to implement high availability clustering in order to eliminate downtime from both planned and unplanned outages. After initially deploying an alternate solution, Quants Research settled on and deployed LifeKeeper for Linux, offered in Japan by 10art-ni Corporation, to monitor and recover components of the business critical system and to ensure the highest levels of data and application availability.

Second in importance only after the valuable analysis done on corporate financial data to Quants Research customers is the availability of the service. The entire service depends on a back-end Sybase Adaptive Server Enterprise database. Mr. Natsuo Koyama, Senior system engineer explains as follows, "Reliability is indispensable to the database which is the core of our business. Although our company had been building an HA cluster with another solution, we needed even more reliability. Speed and accuracy are required in our business. Most of our customers are financial institutions, and in order to obtain the confidence of our customers, we must demonstrate a very reliable system with very quick restoration from any error condition. We began to look for a new HA cluster software package which provides the best in reliability and protection."

In offering an ASP service over the Internet where users can access the service anytime day or night, it is critical that any interruption be remedied as quickly as possible and that downtime from planned maintenance be eliminated. "The previous HA clustering solution which our company had introduced was overly complicated in its architecture. When a failure occurred, recovery status could not be easily traced and, in general, when there was any issue which caused us to do manual operations, it was difficult to recover by oneself." Mr. Koyama explains further, "If we had to call for support, then there was even more downtime and lost revenue. In order to raise the reliability of the system, we decided to replace the HA clustering software. The criteria that we demanded of the new solution were: supports Sybase database, runs on Linux, and comes from a reputable vendor. SteelEye LifeKeeper was offered by 10art-ni as a solution which combines outstanding redundancy and high reliability with a low cost to deploy and manage. Raising the return on our customers' investments is an important feature of our company, and this carries over internally to raising the return on our own internal IT investment. LifeKeeper which 10art-ni proposed perfectly fit this model."

10art-ni Introduces LifeKeeper

After the introduction of LifeKeeper, there has been very little support needed from the local reseller, 10art-ni. "In the spring of 2004, we introduced LifeKeeper. The interface and architecture of LifeKeeper is straightforward. The functionality which our company needs is delivered exactly, and it is very easy to manage. SteelEye has managed to take the complex task of server clustering and make it appear very simple to the end-user. In cases where manual intervention have been required, the LifeKeeper GUI provides all of the tools needed to perform the required function, and since the LifeKeeper management console runs within a Web browser, it also has the advantage that maintenance and repair work can be performed from anywhere at anytime."

Following the initial installation of LifeKeeper, Quants Research tested and verified the correct operation of all cluster functions and has been so pleased with LifeKeeper that the company has installed two more clusters. "We believe that critical systems such as our stock price database should be dispersed for protection and low latency, but the management of this dispersed cluster should be from one place and should ensure total availability. Therefore we have to think about protecting the systems with LifeKeeper to meet our customers' requirements." Mr. Koyama believes that as the financial market continues to grow and more need arises for Quants Research services, it is critical that the "Quants professional" keep working with protection from any service interruption.

The Solution Components

Hardware

- IBM eServer xSeries 345
- IBM EXP400 Storage

Operating System

- Red Hat Enterprise Linux 3.0 ES

Clustering software

- SteelEye LifeKeeper for Linux v4.6
- SteelEye LifeKeeper for Linux Sybase Application Recovery Kit

Database

- Sybase Adaptive Server Enterprise (ASE) 12.5

About Quants Research

<http://www.Quants Research.com/english>

Quants Research is committed to help you create new, innovative financial business and services. Quants Research positions itself in the cross-over area among the business front and the solution providers. We offer unique and value-added services from an unbiased standpoint. With our profound business experience, we work together with clients to propose optimal business schemes to achieve their objectives; with our extensive system development experience, we collaborate with systems integration vendors to realize high performance large-scale financial systems; with our rich market knowledge, we provide data reengineering services jointly with data vendors to change plain market data into value-added financial information; with our financial engineering expertise, we proactively do academic research and prototype development together with academia and research organizations.

Quants Research strongly believes in synergetic corporate growth. We promote strategic alliance with counterparties to maximize our comparative advantage in the financial engineering field; under such multilateral collaboration, we expect that every party will benefit from each other. Quants Research would like to continue to be in a position to be able to work and grow together.

About SteelEye Technology

<http://www.steeleye.com>

SteelEye is a leading provider of data and application availability management solutions for business continuity and disaster recovery.

The SteelEye LifeKeeper family of application-focused data replication, high availability clustering and disaster recovery solutions are easy to deploy and operate, and enable enterprises of all sizes to ensure continuous availability of business-critical applications, servers and data.

To complement its software solutions, SteelEye also provides a full range of high availability consulting and professional services to assist organizations with the assessment, design and implementation of solutions for ensuring High Availability within their environments.

About 10art-ni

[\(www.10art-ni.co.jp/\)](http://www.10art-ni.co.jp/)

Based in Tokyo, Japan, 10art-ni is a leading IT solution provider and has built its business on open source software technologies. Evolving in tandem with the Internet, 10art-ni maintains a keen focus on development of Linux-based e-business solutions, putting them at the cutting edge of IT innovation. 10art-ni led the industry to a more user-oriented system development concept, which resulted in many successful customer-site deployments. As a distributor of LifeKeeper, 10art-ni Corporation supports SteelEye in both Sales and Technical Services.

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