Case Study

Ace provides 309 LogiCAD Workstations and Tower Servers to the Military.

Customer Challenge

The US Military was looking to field over 200 Intel Xeon Workstations with dual displays, removable hard drives, legacy port support, Windows 7 Professional, Trusted Platform Module (TPM 1.2), and other features, plus almost 100 Dual Intel Xeon Workstations with similar requirements that would utilize Red Hat Enterprise Linux. The same contract also included a small number of custom laptops, as well as a significant quantity of notebook hard drives, and 4 year worldwide support. Ace provided the right balance of features and aggressive pricing.

Solution Overview

Barry Weinstein (Aprisa Technology LLC) and Marc Fertik (Director, Ace Computers) decided to team up to provide the best possible solution. Aprisa provided the custom Dell laptops and the notebook hard drives from Seagate. Ace was to provide the workstations, but there were several very significant technical issues to be addressed. Marc focused on the requirement to provide TPM 1.2 functionality, which is often a key determining factor in US Military specifications. After speaking with Daniel Arendt (Engineering Manager, Ace Computers), the ASUS P6T WS Pro was chosen for the Workstations, and the Tyan S7025AGM2NR was chosen for the Servers. Both of these motherboards offered fully integrated TPM 1.2, as well as a host of other key features. Marc chose chassis’ from Antec and Silverstone, along with Antec power supplies. These were top quality components, and along with Samsung LCD’s, CRU-DataPort’s to support the removable hard drives, and other related components the solution was finalized. Ace selected PrismPointe Technologies as their support subcontractor, insuring future customer support issues would not be a problem.
What issues were overcome to make this project successful?

• The specification was for 750GB Hard Drives, but availability was going to be an issue, so Ace upgraded all 1426 drives to the larger and newer 1TB models at no extra charge, to insure ease of future support, and to facilitate any potential RAID configuration implemented in the field.

• The original design included multiple CRU-DataPort frames in each chassis (2 for the Workstation, 3 for the Server), which turned out to be a logistical challenge in the Antec 900. Ace chose to upgrade all of the CRU-DataPort models to a newer smaller unit, at no cost to the customer, even though the Silverstone TJ09 was not impacted, believing that future support would be easier with standardization across as much of the systems as possible.

• Ace worked with all of our key suppliers on this contract to insure commonality of components across the entire build, as that was vital for system stability and long term support.

• The Ace website was updated with key customer service contact information, driver links, serial numbers, and installation location (if available), to support quick response to any inquiries.

Detailed Tech Specs:

LogiCAD Workstation

• Intel Xeon W3550
• ASUS P6T WS Pro (X58)
• 12GB (6x2GB) DDR3
• NVIDIA GeForce 9800 GT w/1GB
• 2x DataPort 10VR Frames
• Keyboard with CAC Reader
• 500W 80 Plus Power Supply
• 4x 1TB SATA Drives (All in DataPort Carriers)
• Dual Gigabit NIC
• TPM 1.2
• Windows 7 Pro

LogiCAD Server

• Dual Intel Xeon X5660
• Tyan S7025AGM2NR
• 24GB (6x4GB) DDR3
• NVIDIA GeForce 9800 GT w/1GB
• 3x DataPort 10VR Frames
• Keyboard with CAC Reader
• 650W 80 Plus Power Supply (Customized for Dual Xeon)
• 6x 1TB SATA Drives (All in DataPort Carriers)
• Dual Gigabit NIC
• TPM 1.2
• Linux (Customer Installed)

Monitors

• 2443BWT-1-TAA