



Xen.org Case Study

Brandeis

Brandeis University deploys PeopleSoft on Xen

“The open source Xen® hypervisor gave Brandeis a powerful and simple way to deploy a complex application”

Josh West
Systems Engineer
Brandeis University

Characterized by academic excellence since its founding in 1948, Brandeis is one of the youngest private research universities in the country. Named for the late Justice Louis Dembitz Brandeis of the US Supreme Court, Brandeis University combines the faculty and resources of a world-class research institution with the intimacy and personal attention of a small liberal arts college.

The Challenge: Delivering complex PeopleSoft modules in a scalable, cost-effective manner

Deploying PeopleSoft for Enterprise Financials, Campus Solutions, and other services caused Brandeis to rethink their IT infrastructure deployment as having multiple servers running on Solaris required extensive administration knowledge with the additional requirement of large, expensive servers. High availability and scalability were also a major concern for Brandeis which could not be solved via the classic deployment methodology.

KEY BENEFITS

High Availability

Scalability

Open Source Access

Cost Efficiency

Security

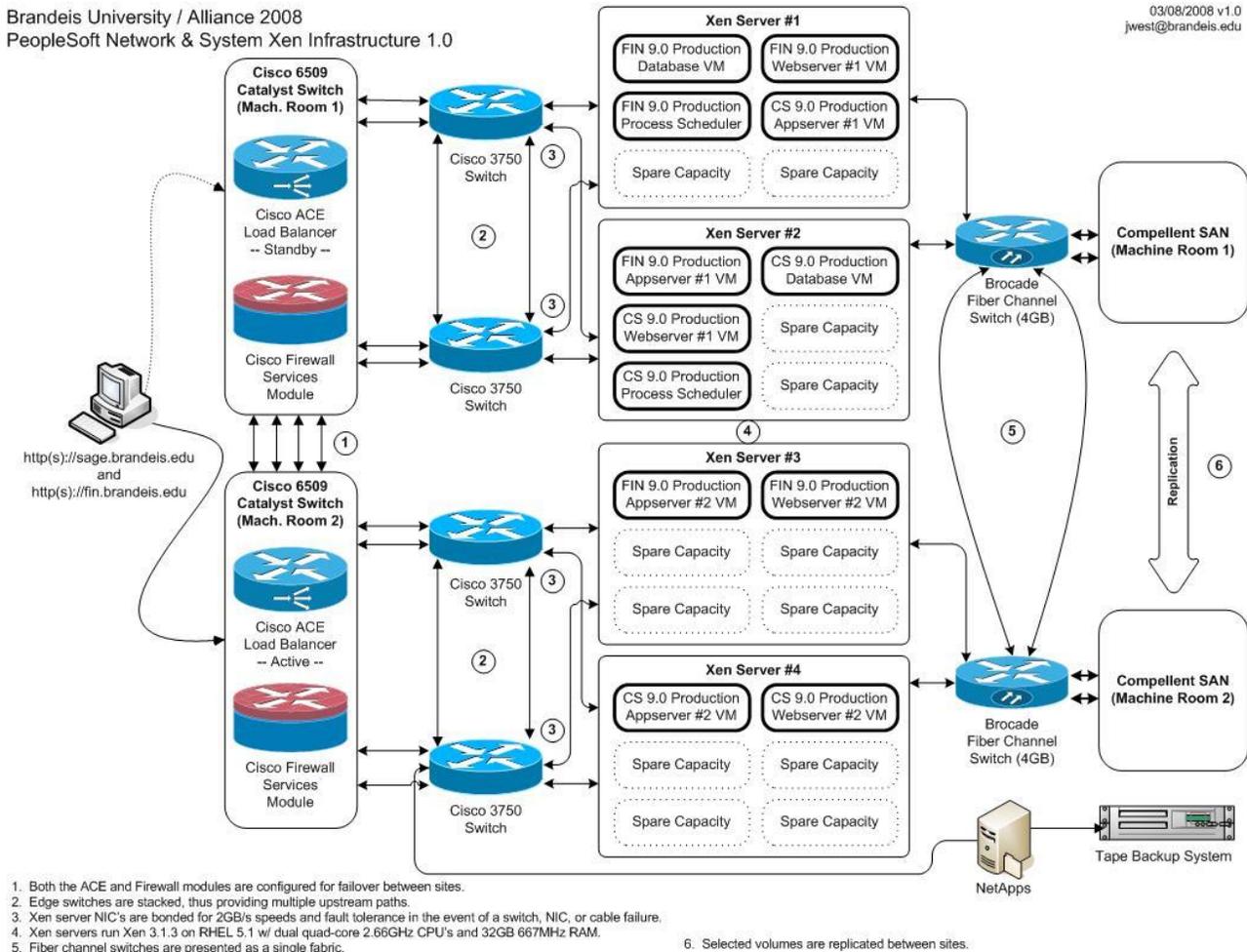
“Virtualization provided us with the most cost effective and scalable solution to deploy our complex PeopleSoft applications,” said West. “We gained high availability from the live migration feature and have over 200 virtual machines currently running on 14 servers.” As demand increases, new virtual machines can be easily deployed to the existing infrastructure with no system impact. Security and performance isolation provide additional benefits as the separate virtual machines independently leverage the hardware without cross-contamination.

Brandeis is also leveraging Xen in the deployment of Zimbra and Moodle for email and class management services.

Implementing Open Source Xen Hypervisor

Leveraging the power of virtualization with the industry leading open source Xen hypervisor, Brandeis deployed new Linux computers in their IT infrastructure. "Having an open source solution for virtualization, gave us the ability to deploy a complex Linux application cost efficiently with the ability to also customize our management console," said West. "The added benefits of security, high availability, and performance isolation made open source Xen the best choice for Brandeis."

The figure below shows the current network environment at Brandeis University for deployment of their PeopleSoft application.



Joining the Open Source Xen Hypervisor Project

An additional benefit for Brandeis is the opportunity to influence the development of the Xen hypervisor by not only using the solution but also developing software for the project. A new project, Xengine, is currently being managed by Josh West as he leads the effort to create a new graphical management utility to administer complex open source Xen environments.

About Xen.org. Xen.org is the home of the open source Xen® hypervisor, a fast, secure industry standard code base for operating system virtualization. Founded and led by Ian Pratt the community benefits from the hundreds of contributors from leading hardware, software, and security vendors. Xen.org is guided by the Xen Advisory Board, which is drawn from key contributors to the project. For more information, visit www.xen.org.