

Stratus Avance Software Overview

Uptime assurance keeps small and medium
businesses up and running

Uptime. All the time.



IT peace of mind designed for small to mid-sized businesses.



The German Automobile Club (ADAC) diagnostics unit requires high availability.

Designed to prevent downtime, data loss, and business interruption, Stratus Avance® software is an integrated, easy-to-use, solution that ensures high availability (HA) for a fraction of the cost of conventional hardware clusters. Its fundamental advantages: superior uptime, reliability and operational simplicity deliver lasting benefits to your business at a very affordable price point. From its one-step installation to its single management console to its lower cost of ownership, Avance brings immediate, measurable value to small and mid-sized businesses. Like yours.

Instant high-availability for x86 servers

Avance software delivers uptime that is far superior in performance and cost to clusters or standby solutions. Designed to configure and manage its own operation, this highly automated software makes setting up application environments easy and economical. With just a few clicks, Avance software transforms a standard x86 server pair into a highly available, highly reliable platform that shields your business from the high costs of downtime, data loss and reduced productivity.

"We needed a solution that we could run reliably without a lot of training and constant administration."

ULF Farger
Project Team Leader, ADAC

Businesses with limited IT resources discover that Avance software makes their IT systems easy to manage and lowers total operational costs. The software's automated uptime layer includes built-in "predictive features" that automatically identify, report, and handle faults, before they become a problem. Full resource sharing among the x86 server pair allows the system to use unaffected components "if" a hardware or software error is imminent. As a result, your applications continue to run uninterrupted.

BENEFITS

SUPERIOR UPTIME ASSURANCE

- 99.99+% availability: less than one hour of unscheduled downtime per year on average
- Prevents downtime and data loss
- Reduces planned downtime

HIGHLY AFFORDABLE

- Low acquisition and lower management costs than conventional hardware alternatives
- No SAN and no third-party management software is necessary
- Enables server consolidation for further savings

EASY TO OPERATE

- No specialized IT skills required
- No application customization needed
- Supports heterogenous environments, Windows® and Linux® operating systems
- Lights-out management: manages its own operation with little user intervention
- Automated 24/7 monitoring, fault-handling and call-home notification

Uptime. **All the time.**

Avance software addresses issues before they cause downtime.



Avance HA collects weather data 24/7/365 in Barrow, Alaska. (INTRUST GROUP)

While surveys show human error is the number one cause of IT downtime, the highly automated features found only in Avance software minimize your exposure to operational error and dramatically lower your total IT ownership costs.

Cost-effective infrastructure

Avance software eliminates the need for costly storage area networks (SAN) and the technical teams required for cluster implementations. A pair of x86 servers with embedded storage is the only infrastructure you'll need to set up and run an Avance high-availability solution. Integrated no-cost virtualization provides for additional configuration flexibility, server consolidation and greater savings.

Simple to set up and use

If you can set up an industry-standard server, you can install Avance high availability. You benefit from industry-leading uptime and comprehensive data protection as soon as you load Avance software onto a pair of x86 servers. Unlike some solutions, Avance software does not require identical servers. There are no clusters to configure and test, no failover scripts to write, no changes to make applications cluster-aware or standby servers to buy and store. These activities add cost and consume valuable IT time and resources — while the end results still fall far short of the automatic uptime delivered by Avance software.

"The remoteness was a big concern. The servers were going to be in a data center, but there was no full-time engineer on site. A server outage could knock out the system for several days, at least."

Tim Rettig
President, INTRUST GROUP

Predictive fault handling

Avance software's automated uptime layer detects faults and handles errors before the system is impacted. Applications ride through most causes of system interruption, including disk and network subsystem failure. As a result, you avoid the processing blackout, data loss and user disconnects that a traditional cluster failover imposes on your company.

Built-in 24/7 monitoring

Avance software's proactive availability management monitors server heartbeat and operation 24/7. Built-in prognostic tools automatically predict events, allowing the software to identify and avoid most hardware and software problems before they occur. The prognostic tools isolate the problem to the component level and "call home" for repair. No administrative intervention or specialized hardware is required to initiate any of these features, making Avance software ideal for companies with little or no on-site IT expertise.

Real-time data synchronization

Data is automatically mirrored in real time to the secondary server node. If a server node is repaired or upgraded, Avance software re-synchronizes the node automatically upon its return to service. This ensures you of maximum protection against loss or corruption of vital business data.

Automated live migration

Upon sensing a problem in one server, Avance software migrates applications to the unaffected server where processing continues uninterrupted. In the event of a complete server failure or natural disaster, the software generates an automatic "rapid restart" that takes just seconds.

Uptime. **All the time.**

Superior uptime assurance and protection of critical business data.

Notification and Alerts

Avance e-mail alerts, notification tools, and call home capabilities keep your staff and Stratus' global support organization constantly informed with up-to-the minute information that enables problem prevention and resolution.

Disaster recovery

To ensure minimal downtime and rapid recovery from localized disaster, Avance split-site deployment allows you to separate server nodes up to three miles apart. Unlike traditional disaster recovery solutions that simply keep a copy of data in backup, your Avance solution continues to replicate data to the second location in "real time."

Remote management

Your Avance solution presents a streamlined single-system view that is easy and cost-effective to manage. Support professionals can remotely monitor and manage the servers, virtual machines, and network interfaces from the integrated web-based Avance management console.

Online upgrades

Avance live migration features also help you minimize planned downtime for upgrades and system maintenance. Production is transferred to the other server before the upgrade process. When the system is brought back online, the nodes are automatically resynchronized without missing a beat.

Trusted Brand

Only Avance software offers comprehensive protection against downtime and loss of critical data. Traditional HA solutions merely "react to faults" while Avance software continuously detects issues before they happen to prevent costly downtime and its impact on customer goodwill.

24/7 software support coverage

Stratus® 24/7 support services are second to none for uptime protection. You can count on Stratus for immediate resolution from high-impact issues, timely incident resolution, quality fixes and prompt attention to routine support requests and maintenance updates.

Support designed for the needs and budgets of SMBs

Avance Software Support Services

SERVICE COMPONENT	COVERAGE
● Access to software advice	24/7
● Critical problem engineer response time	60 minutes
● Access to availability engineers to address critical problems	24/7
● Web-based support portal access	24/7
● Software update subscription	Included
● Remote monitoring	24/7
● Secure remote access	Internet bi-directional
● Contract term	1, 2 or 3-year contract terms available

Uptime. **All the time.**

Compare the Stratus Avance software difference

	STANDARD SERVERS	TRADITIONAL CLUSTERS	AVANCE SOFTWARE
Uptime			
Unplanned downtime*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 87 hours / year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 hours / year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less than 1 hour / year
Failure recovery time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less than 40 sec
Recovery effort	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manual 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires failover scripting, testing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fully automated;
Fault detection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, automatic
Planned downtime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires restart 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No planned downtime
Deployment			
Set-up time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Days to weeks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About 1 hour
Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complex and manual 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple / automated
Expertise / training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Cost			
Initial purchase price	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High cost 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low cost
Maintenance costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very high 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very low
SAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not required
Built-in Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes

* Approximate yearly average

To arrange a demo

Call: 1-800-Stratus or email: AvanceDemo@stratus.com

Learn more at: www.stratus.com/avance



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