ARISTOCRAT TECHNOLOGIES

Stratus delivers **always-on jackpot availability** for global gaming solution
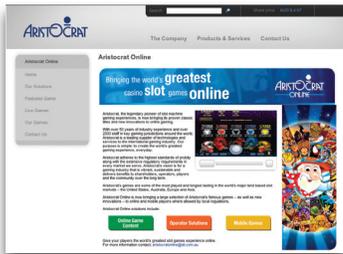
Aristocrat is a manufacturer of gaming hardware and a global leader in the development of software-based sophisticated gaming products for use by casinos around the world. Aristocrat began corporate life in 1953 as a gaming hardware supplier, and has evolved into a gaming technology group that places high value on software and content. Headquartered in Sydney, Australia, Aristocrat has offices in the United States, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, South Africa, Japan, South America and Southeast Asia, where staff are focused on meeting customer needs at a local level. A global management structure drives innovation in all business areas.

Quick Facts

Profile
- Leading global provider of gaming solutions for over 50 years

Environment
- Stratus® everRun® FT Software

Windows Application
- QL Server 2000 Multi-Site Progressive (MSP) System

The Problem

Aristocrat had begun to use a new gaming application called Multi-Site Progressive (MSP) System, where slot machine players at casinos around the U.S. are connected, permitting them to play for combined jackpots. The Nevada Gaming Control, the state regulatory agency, requires redundancy in these systems to minimize downtime on the jackpot links.

The Approach

Aristocrat uses an SQL Server 2000 database running on a Windows server to monitor and increase jackpot levels for each slot machine within the MSP. If the database application goes down, the jackpots cannot continue to be managed and the games must be shut off.

TRANSFORMING THE GAME.

"… with potentially thousands of games connected to the system; downtime at the database level could have a significant financial impact … "

Todd Voight
User Support Lead
Northwestern's Facilities Management IT department

The back-end database must continue to function for their external gaming machines to operate properly within the MSP. If the database shuts down for any reason, the games lock themselves and are not available to the players. Eventually Aristocrat will have hundreds of sites with potentially thousands of games connected to the MSP System. Any amount of downtime at the database level could have a significant financial impact if revenue-generating gaming equipment were switched offline.

The Solution

To protect against such an event, Aristocrat needed more than a highly available system; they needed continuous availability. The choices that Aristocrat evaluated for server redundancy were Microsoft Clustering and Stratus everRun software. Aristocrat selected Stratus® everRun® FT software because it offered an always-on solution that eliminated the failover process of clustering.

The Results

"Key engineers played a significant role in the deployment and worked hand-in-hand with our in-house engineers to deploy the software successfully," says Adam Goldstein, Director of Information Technology at Aristocrat. "Since the solution is still very new, we have not reached an ROI point yet. We are looking to expand our deployment of our new MSP product over the next five years and anticipate an ROI within 12 months."

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Director of Information Technology
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