

SECURIGUARD TECH

SecuriGuard Tech, one of the UAE largest and highly-respected private security organizations, has selected the NEC Express5800/320 Fault Tolerant server for its cost effectiveness and to ensure high availability of its security solutions.



EXPECTED BENEFITS

A system that guarantees:

- High availability
- Stability
- Easy management
- Reduction of TCO

First-rate security guard services

Based in the United Arab Emirates, SecuriGuard's reputation is built on first-rate security guard services and has been in the forefront of the asset protection for over 32 years as a leading-edge, innovative security solution provider. The company has a strong track record of delivering a wide range of services from safeguarding physical premises and personnel to securing electronic content and proprietary information with professionalism and skill which has brought them numerous awards for innovation and service excellence. SecuriGuard has replaced public policing responsibilities at some major port and airport facilities around the world.

The issue

After using a high availability cluster infrastructure, SecuriGuard Security Services, is looking for a more stable solution easier to administrate and not requiring professional engineers skills. A more cost-effective high availability solution is guaranteed by the system because it had none of the overhead costs of specialized software for clustering and the need for cluster aware applications. Furthermore the aim was to save SecuriGuard the cost of the multiple licenses for operating systems applications.

NEC Express5800 Fault Tolerant technology

- The benefits of the NEC Express5800 Fault Tolerant server include: continuous availability (with 99.999% uptime), achievable through the use of standard components and the possibility of "active upgrades".
- The NEC Fault Tolerant servers are based on a dual modular architecture with the GeminiEngine™ chipset, designed to permit "lockstep" processing on both server modules.
- Lockstep makes it possible to execute process threads for both the OS and the applications in both modules simultaneously, thus eliminating any potential disruption should a component fail on either of the two modules.

A SOLUTION FOR HIGH AVAILABILITY AND BETTER PRODUCTIVITY

“The NEC FT servers, the implementation process and the support services has been a successful project and we are very pleased with the level of benefits it provides us” said Mr Baldev Singh Sandhu, the UAE Managing Director at Securiguard.

The challenge

One of the key services provided by Securiguard is an integrated security solution for CCTV (Closed Circuit TV / video-surveillance systems) and Access Control systems. In such systems, one or more levels of redundancy are extremely important and should be considered as part of the whole system architecture, so that surveillance is maintained in emergency situations. Periodically, a security audit is undertaken to help identify areas of high-risk or potential failure, leading to the creation of primary non-technical objectives of the intended security system. For each type of risk or threat, the necessary combination of video surveillance and other security systems, such as intrusion detection or access control, can be determined and then included in the design. The likely combination of modern security systems will require the implementation of a multi-service network in order to allow full communications between the various components.

Envisaged solution

Implementing video-surveillance and access control systems without redundancy risks compromises the security and integrity of the protected premises. This is why proposed video-based security systems should run continuously without any single point of failure in order to achieve high availability in any emergency situation making high availability architecture mandatory.

Initially, Securiguard considered running these applications on software-clustered servers. The cluster presented the technical support group with setup and failover issues, in the case of hardware and software failure on the node. In addition, the software cluster required two copies of the operating system and applications, which also needed to be cluster-aware, making it far more complex and costly.

Chosen solution

In order to implement a video-based security system, some issues might have been specific to its installation but many were common throughout business continuity.

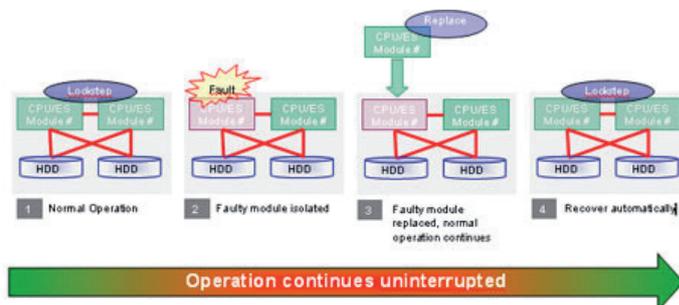
After several weeks of studying the alternative solutions on the market, Securiguard selected the NEC Express5800/320Fd-MR, Fault Tolerant (FT) Intel® based server. The NEC Fault Tolerant offered a simpler and more cost effective solution for high availability with none of the overhead costs associated with traditional server clustering, which was one of the most important elements in 24/7 system availability:

«FT servers were the perfect solution to our needs.»

Mr Baldev Signh Sandhu, Managing Director at Securiguard UAE

Easy and fast deployment

The project took a few days to deploy by certified NEC engineers and then it was able to host all of the related software applications that were managing Securiguard’s network of security systems implemented on the customers’ premises.



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