

ORACLE SETS SPEED RECORDS AT HONEYWELL CONSUMER PRODUCTS

THANKS TO FLASHDISK® RAID



"FlashDisk RAID disk array eliminated Oracle's disk-related I/O bottlenecks and saved us over \$250,000. Now our UNIX-based Oracle Applications fly," stated Kerry Asquith. Right to left: Kerry Asquith, Oracle project manager; Peggy Frederick, director of information technology; Tim Wells, network manager.

The glacial pace of Oracle Applications was adversely affecting operations at Honeywell's Consumer Products division. During peak periods, system performance was simply unacceptable. Everyone was up in arms.

Kerry Asquith, Oracle project manager, was charged with solving the problem. "We were running Oracle Applications on an Alpha 2100 with DEC UNIX, 2 CPUs, 2 gigs of memory and a DEC StorageWorks RAID. Our first fix was adding 2 more CPUs; we found however, that we were still I/O limited. Next, we spread our hot data and disks across controllers, rearranged table spaces, and spent months re-striping and re-mirroring. Still, no breakthroughs. Finally, we put Winchester Systems' FlashDisk RAID to the test."

Honeywell put their hot table spaces on a small FlashDisk RAID disk array. "With no other changes, response times were immediately 4 to 6 times faster," said Asquith. Order booking time dropped from 1 to 3 minutes to 15 to 30 seconds, while batch processing on large jobs went from over 1 hour to as little as 5 minutes. And that was just the beginning.

The keys to FlashDisk's lightning speed are its massively-parallel architecture and its high-speed intelligent data caching. Each FlashDisk delivers up to 9,779 read/writes per second. That's up to 10 times faster than a typical array.

Having solved the I/O bottleneck, the IT team addressed future computing requirements by migrating to an HP/UX K570 server, the corporate standard. Instead of HP's RAID, however, the IT staff opted for 500GB of FlashDisk RAID storage including: 4 dual-host subsystems, each with 11 9GB drives and 128MB cache. "Needless to say, a lot was riding on this decision, but it was the right move," stated Peggy Frederick, director of information technology. "Before, most transactions took up to 5 minutes on Oracle, now all transactions have dropped to under 5 seconds," she added. FlashDisk also met Honeywell's need for fault tolerance. "We couldn't hot-swap drives with our DEC StorageWorks RAID, Oracle slowed to a crawl and array rebuilds took up to 2 hours," remarked Tim Wells, network

manager, "with FlashDisk, array rebuilds took just 15 to 30 minutes." Wells added, "We can even hot-swap power supplies and fans, and FlashDisk will automatically page us if a problem occurs."

More good news – FlashDisk needed almost no set up. According to Asquith, "FlashDisk is self-optimizing. In 9 months we've done no tuning whatsoever."

These days everyone is smiling at Honeywell Consumer Products. "Oracle is running like a champ," said Asquith, "even as Canada went live with Order Entry and Inventory. *Bottom line, FlashDisk saved us over \$250,000 in hardware, system maintenance and data base tuning costs.*"

Find out how FlashDisk can make your Oracle Applications set new speed records. Call us today and we'll send a complete information kit, or visit our web site right now.



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149 Middlesex Turnpike, Burlington, MA 01803
www.winsys.com • 800-325-3700 • Fax: 781-265-0201

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