

REPOST + Begging: Multiple Apps on UNIX?

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We originally posted this survey two days ago and have not received anywhere near the number of responses we desire. So we're upping the ante: for every 50 survey responses, we will give a \$100 Amazon gift certificate to a randomly chosen participant. Given the odds of winning (1 in 50), the expected value of filling out the survey is \$2 – not bad for less than a minutes worth of work. Those of you who have already responded are automatically entered into the drawing. Winners will be notified by email. With the abject begging out of the way, here's what we're trying to find out...

Is anyone out there running multiple applications or databases on single UNIX systems? Is anyone using UNIX workload management and partitioning features to cut admin load, hit SLAs, reduce footprints, and/or, hopefully, cut costs? Our company, Gabriel Consulting Group, is running a survey to see if customers in the real world (i.e. you folks) are actually using these features or if the vendors are simply whistling in the dark. We would greatly appreciate your participation in our research project. To respond to our survey, please cut and paste this entire message into an email and send it (after marking your choices, of course) to survey1@gabrielconsultinggroup.com.

All respondees are entered in our \$100 Amazon gift certificate drawing. We may wish to contact some of you for short follow-up phone interviews; these people will receive further compensation. We will hold all responses, email addresses, etc., strictly confidential and will under no circumstances disclose any identifying information to third parties. We hate spam just as much as you do. Now, on to the survey...

1. Please tell us which server families you predominately work with (rank from 1=most closely to 4=less closely)

IBM AIX _____
Sun Solaris _____
HP, HP-UX _____
HP, Tru64 _____
Other _____

2. How big is your entire organization? (number of total employees)

- Under 500 _____
- 500 to 1,500 _____
- 1,500 to 5,000 _____
- 5,000 + _____

3. In your organization, how many UNIX servers do you oversee or have some level of detailed knowledge about?

- Under 10 _____
- 10 – 20 _____
- 20 – 50 _____
- 50 – 100 _____
- 100 + _____

4. Of the UNIX servers you have knowledge of, how many are running more than one application or database on a single O/S instance or in multiple O/S instances on a single multi-processor SMP server?

_____ None, virtually all of our UNIX systems run single applications only

_____ Very few (10% or less)

_____ Half of our UNIX servers are running multiple applications

_____ More than half of our UNIX servers are running multiple applications

Time to branch! If you answered "None" or "Very few" to question #4 above, move right on to question #5 below. If you answered "Half" or "More than half" to question #4 above, then proceed directly to the PARTING COMMENTS section below.

5. Since you're still with us at question #5, you're organization does not run multiple UNIX applications on single systems, right? UNIX vendors have been talking a lot about this capability, and the benefits it can provide to customers, for the last couple of years. In the next set of questions, we would like to get a feel for why your data center has not adopted this new UNIX usage model. Next to each of the statements below, please let us know on a 1–5 scale if you agree that the statement explains why your organization does not run multiple applications on single UNIX servers...

a) "Lack of knowledge and expertise, our vendors haven't supplied us with much info" _____ (5=strongly agree, 1=strongly disagree)

b) "We think combining apps on single servers will compromise availability" _____ (5=strongly agree, 1=strongly disagree)

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c) "We don't understand how this can or will save money or management effort" _____ (5=strongly agree, 1=strongly disagree)

d) "Our UNIX apps are running well right now, we don't want to change anything" _____ (5=strongly agree, 1=strongly disagree)

e) "We simply don't have the cycles to make major changes right now" _____ (5=strongly agree, 1=strongly disagree)

f) "Where's the beef? What do we get out of this stuff?" _____ (5=strongly agree, 1=strongly disagree)

g) "UNIX operating systems/hardware are not sophisticated enough to run multiple apps" _____ (5=strongly agree, 1=strongly disagree)

h) "There's too much political BS in our organization, everyone owns their own servers and will not agree to move their app onto a box they don't own outright or have complete use of" _____ (5=strongly agree, 1=strongly disagree)

i) "UNIX management and accounting tools are not up to the task of metering individual app usage or making sure service levels are maintained" _____ (5=strongly agree, 1=strongly disagree)

PARTING COMMENTS:

We know our simple survey won't capture everything you can tell us – so please give us any additional thoughts or comments you have on this issue. If we didn't ask a question we should have asked or asked a dumb question, here's where you can let us know.

(Comments space)

Remember to email your completed survey to

survey1@gabrielconsultinggroup.com.

Thank you again for participating in our survey, we appreciate your time.