CommuniGate SYSTEMS

INDUSTRY

Politecnico di Torino is one of the most prestigious engineering institutes in Italy. Located in Torino Italy, they are nested in the middle of the principal European industrial systems, and thus offer a wide variety of classes and opportunities. They have academic programs ranging from Aero-nautical engineering to telecommunications and beyond. Politecnico di Torino has a reputation for creating successful minds which, "are known and appreciated throughout Europe and that are recognized by international bodies for quality evaluation and academic education." With thousands of teachers and administrative staff situated in over 12 different locations within the Piemonte region, Politecnico di Torino is the leading academic institute of its kind in Northern Italy.

CommuniGate Pro at Politecnico di Torino—
Everything in an Email Solution and More

CHALLENGE

Providing a reliable and error free email solution to over 4,000 staff members was no easy task. Previously, Politecnico di Torino was using a VAX cluster which consists of VAX6520 and a VAX9000 running the PMDF mail suite. The technicians at the university were tired of the constant maintenance needed to keep their network up and running. The university staff also requested a solution that supported Web-mail and IMAP, and that could provide great uptime and outstanding reliability and technical assistance. While they looked at numerous alternatives to the PMDF mail suite, they ended up choosing CommuniGate Pro. What they found was a, "versatile, scalable, and 3rd party integration friendly solution that met all our needs."

SOLUTION

Politecnico di Torino turned to CommuniGate Systems to handle their email systems for a number of reasons. CommuniGate Pro offers a wide-variety of features. The University chose to implement IMAP, POP, Web-mail, in addition to the CommuniGate Pro MAPI connector. They love, "the integration of CommuniGate Pro with external authenticators." They are happy with the reliability and efficiency that CommuniGate provides both at home and abroad. "CommuniGate has defiantly satisfied our user

base because it meets all the requirements they had. They needed web-mail, IMAP, and integration with our Active Directory, and CommuniGate Pro worked like a charm. We didn't need to hire new people to manage our mail services even though our user base has expanded considerably from two to four thousand accounts in the last few years. CommuniGate provides us with a reliable and wonderful email solution that is affordable and easy to use."

SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE

An institution of this size needs sufficient technology to run their servers on. Politecnico di Torino runs their version of CommuniGate Pro on RISC Architecture. They only have one of their servers in active mode, while the other is in hot standby mode, ready incase there is an error with the first. Both of their servers have dual 68/833Mhz HP processors, which provide excellent processing power for internet telecommunications, and other applications. Both of their machines run Hewlett Packard's Tru64 UNIX v5.1a, and both have 110GB of hard-drive space for their users, locally mounted via a U320SCSI storage unit.

BENEFITS

Having a stable and reliable email server was very important to the staff at Politecnico di Torino. Technicians had spent countless hours struggling over keeping their previous VAX mail server up and running, and wanted a solution that would require much less effort and time. Un-paralleled reliability is what they found with CommuniGate Pro. Since installing their version of CommuniGate Pro, the University has experienced little to no downtime, and on the rare occasions that something does go wrong, they are confident in the abilities of the CommuniGate Systems support team to lead them through their quandary. "We don't need technical support very often, but the few experiences we have had with them have been positive. Usually we either got through right away on the phone, or our questions were satisfactorily answered, sometimes within minutes of being asked."

The professors at the university are constantly on the move, so having a secure and private email solution that is accessible at remote terminals both domestic and international was a top priority for them. "Our professors and staff are more than happy with the outcome of CommuniGate Pro. It is both easy enough for them to manage, and their email is delivered quickly and efficiently via CommuniGate Pro. It is everything we were looking for in an email solution and more."

4/06

CommuniGate SYSTEMS