

success story



Greater Manchester
Police doesn't
miss a beat



hp NonStop
servers back up
U.K. police force



GREATER MANCHESTER
POLICE

Whether the Greater Manchester Police is providing day-to-day policing services to the people of Greater Manchester, maintaining order at fuel price demonstrations, or keeping the peace at the XVII Commonwealth Games, hosted by Greater Manchester in 2002, one thing is certain: The police force will be able to respond swiftly and reliably, with a comprehensive policing service based on hp NonStop systems.

More than 2.5 million citizens in Greater Manchester, a metropolitan area of northwest England, rely on the ability to dial 999 for immediate assistance in case of an emergency. To handle those urgent calls, the Greater Manchester Police (GMP) depends on the continuous availability of NonStop S-series servers.

Critical requirements: reliability and availability

"The availability, 24 hours per day and 7 days per week, of appropriate IT systems to help our 7,500 officers and 3,000 support staff do their jobs is a critical requirement," explained Ian Wood, assistant IT director for GMP. "In particular," he continued, "the force considers it vital to have a robust platform to deliver our main command and control system that enables policing within Greater Manchester. We chose a NonStop solution, with its focus on fault tolerance and resilience, to meet the

demands of operational staff for a reliable and highly available primary IT system."

With its Greater Manchester Police Computer System (GMPICS) application, GMP handles some 3,700 incidents and records 1,200 crimes per day in the busiest metropolitan force in Great Britain and the second-largest force in the United Kingdom. GMP's geographically diverse "beat" spans almost 500 square miles, ranging from open tracts of moorland with rural communities to large inner-city areas.

The Operational Information System database on GMP's NonStop system stores details of around 330,000 persons or items of property. The Vehicle Information System database holds records of 500,000 stolen vehicles each year. In addition, the NonStop system supports Police National Computer access and duties and resources.

Migration improves service and scalability

GMP has been an hp customer since 1989. Over the years, NonStop servers have proved to be reliable and robust for the organisation. Recently, however, GMP's existing NonStop K-series server was beginning to reach capacity.

To keep up with business demands, GMP sought to rapidly increase the number of potential client access points from the configuration limit of 1,600 to 5,000 PCs distributed across more than 100 locations. In addition, for business continuity purposes, GMP wanted to minimise downtime on its live system, in the event of an outage or planned maintenance shutdown. On the other hand, the lifespan of the force's current application had at least another five years.

Keeping all of these factors in mind, Sionet International, an hp Business Critical Solution partner specialising in the NonStop system environment, provided a proposal that demonstrated clear cost-of-ownership benefits of a NonStop S-series server over the next five years while delivering a business continuity solution. Consequently, GMP decided to migrate to the NonStop S-series server.

Through Sionet, hp supplied a six-processor NonStop S74006 production system and an S740 development system, providing a cost-effective solution that supported GMP's business plans. Sionet also worked with GMP in the planning, deployment, and management of the migration to ensure a smooth transition. The systems went live in less than four months.



Enhanced application reliability

The proposal for GMP's new system included the use of hp Remote Database Facility (RDF) software as well as NonStop AutoTMF and NonStop AutoSYNC products developed by Carr Scott Software. These products, combined with the new hardware, have provided the force with its first true business continuity solution. GMP is one of the first customers to use the NonStop AutoTMF and NonStop AutoSYNC products.

"The operational case for a business continuity solution was extremely compelling because the 24 x 7 x 365 nature of police work requires that we avoid any unnecessary unavailability of the system." Explained Wood.

"With our new configuration, a fully operational, live application can be ready within one hour, should the primary server become unavailable.

"These features make a vital contribution to the support of operational officers in carrying out their duties and serving the public of Greater Manchester," said Wood. He added that another benefit of the implementation - part of its unmatched total cost of ownership - was a reduction in software and hardware costs.

Moving forward

By migrating to the NonStop S-series server, GMP can get the full mileage from its current GMPICS application and also remove the limitation on the number of GMPICS client sessions, allowing for the maximum requirement of sessions configured for all of the force's 5,000 workstations.

Looking to the future, GMP has a clearly defined technical architecture that must be adhered to when delivering new applications and solutions. hp NonStop technology and other products are the preferred server platforms in this architecture.



"We plan to significantly increase our use of the Internet in the coming years to provide greater access to the public, and availability of a Web solution will be important," said Wood. "Our preferred server architecture, from hp's NonStop Enterprise Division, will of course play a part in the delivery of systems and services."

With its Greater Manchester Police Computer System (GMPICS) application, GMP handles some 3,700 incidents and records 1,200 crimes per day in the busiest metropolitan force in Great Britain and the second-largest force in the United Kingdom. GMP's geographically diverse "beat" spans almost 500 square miles, ranging from open tracts of moorland with rural communities to large inner-city areas.

Challenge:

- The continuous availability of the main command and control system that enables policing in Greater Manchester
- To support business growth

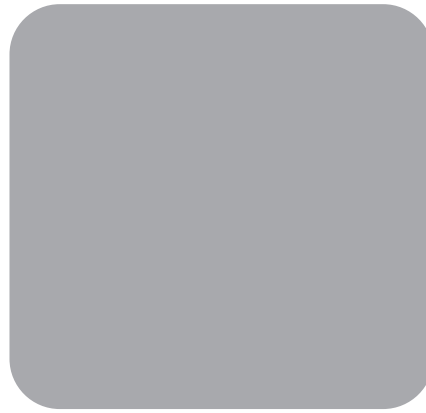
Solution:

- Migration to NonStop S-series server to support expanding databases and increased client access points
- Business continuity solution implemented using hp RDF software as well as NonStop AutoTMF and NonStop AutoSYNC products

Results:

- Complete availability and reliability of the GMP command and control system
- Unmatched total cost of ownership due to a reduction in hardware and software costs
- Removed limitations on amount of information that can be stored on the GMP database
- Increased access for potential clients

For more information on how working with Hewlett-Packard can benefit you, contact your local hp service representative, or visit us through the Internet at our World Wide Web address: <http://www.hp.com>



customer at a glance:



company: Greater Manchester Police

URL: www.gmp.police.uk

main services: The Greater Manchester Police are the busiest metropolitan force in Great Britain and the second largest force in the United Kingdom, covering an area of 500 square miles and ten metropolitan Boroughs. They were formed in 1969 and employ 7,336 officers and 3,518 support staff.



Technical information in this document is subject to change without notice.
© Copyright Hewlett-Packard Company, 2002. All rights reserved. Reproduction, adaptation, or translation without prior written permission is prohibited except as allowed under the copyright laws