

DRBD Keeps Athabasca Uni Running

Background

Athabasca University (AU) is Canada's leading distance-education and online university. It serves approximately 37,000 students per year, twice the enrollment of six years ago. Since its inception by the government of Alberta in 1970 over 260,000 students have registered for AU's individualized courses and programs. AU makes it possible to earn a university education regardless of where one lives or works.

Business Challenge

The challenge is establishing cost-effective, High Availability virtualized servers to provide students access to the campus database and applications. Athabasca University provides a large number of e-learning systems to its students as well as providing internet and external applications through its own campus data center. It is essential for an online university that its services remain available 24/7.

Solution

Athabasca University's servers run exclusively on Red Hat Enterprise Linux, Citrix Xen and MySQL. To achieve High Availability on virtually every server at its data center, it relies on DRBD®.

After several years in production, DRBD® has continued to deliver success to AU at a minimal cost of adoption. Using DRBD, Athabasca University now delivers services that are:

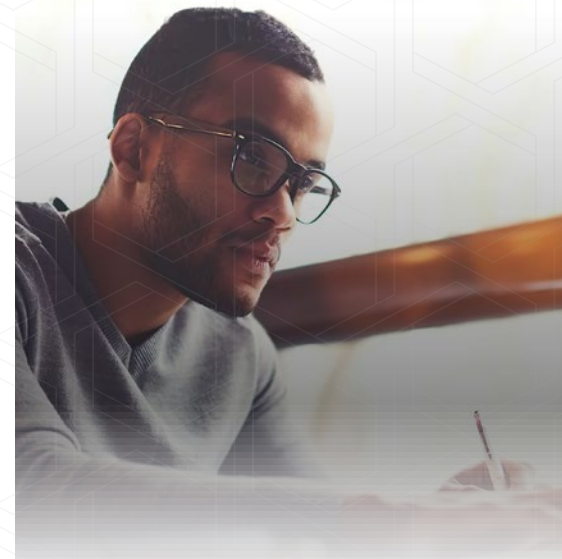
- easy to implement
- fast and efficient
- easily scalable
- cost effective
- highly available 99.99%

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DRBD® allowed us to resolve availability problems, without resorting to high-cost solutions. Simplicity of its setup and maintenance allowed us to spend less time figuring things out with DRBD and more time working with application stacks deployed on top of DRBD.



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