



Florida International University

About Florida International University

With 54,000 students, Florida International University (FIU) is among the 10 largest public universities in the United States.

The large student body is supported by extensive IT operations using Oracle PeopleSoft as well as other web and mobile applications that handle admissions, graduation, payroll, financials, balance sheets, contracts and grants.

Company

Florida International University
www.fiu.edu

Environment & Challenges

- PeopleSoft ERP, Oracle DB
- IT systems constantly under development
- Ensure rapid response time

Results

- Painless transition from LoadRunner
- Systems are stressed with 16K concurrent users
- Early identification of bottlenecks
- Expanded performance testing

Challenge

The 65-member System Administration team at FIU is constantly preparing systems for growth. "We need to support the continuous expansion of the university and test for bottlenecks at multiple points in the system - web servers, application servers, and databases," says Carlos Varona, Director of Administrative Systems.

IT systems are constantly under development and load testing is essential during large system customizations or upgrades of PeopleSoft or the Oracle database. "The ability to stress the system and scale from 2k to 16k concurrent users, lets us identify where are issues and bottlenecks," Varona adds. "Everything depends on how quickly a response returns to end users and with load testing we can analyze the performance behavior. In my eyes, if you neglect to load test your system, you are putting yourself at risk."

FIU was a longtime LoadRunner customer and has seen it through the transition into HP Enterprise. "We've gradually experienced more complex pricing and less responsive support," says Varona. "It got to the point where it simply wasn't working for us."

The testing team has the same, or more flexibility as with LoadRunner, just with much better pricing and support."

Carlos Varona, Director of
Administrative Systems

Solution

The FIU Administration group found WebLOAD and was able to make a smooth and quick transition.

"We know LoadRunner well and have worked with it for years. Yet we transitioned very quickly," Varona notes. "We started with the WebLOAD trial version and were able to get the same functionality as we have today with the licensed version. We set up scenarios and it was a painless experience. As soon as we started with WebLOAD, we were able to expand the number of concurrent virtual users in the load testing."

Results

Today, FIU completely relies on WebLOAD for all its load testing operations. According to Varona, "the testing team has the same, or more flexibility as with LoadRunner, just with much better pricing and support."

Increasing the number of virtual users will help the testing team expand its performance tests to cover a Tallahassee disaster recovery environment, which runs similar systems. "While you think you're ok, if you don't run load tests, you'll never know how strong is your system and where are your weak links. For us this is critical, in case we need to switch over the disaster recovery system because of a hurricane."



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