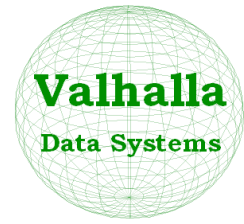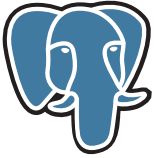# VALHALLA DATA SYSTEMS BUILDS EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE SUITE WITH POSTGRESQL

Educational institutions big and small face a growing crisis: not only do they need to manage student data -- such as timetables, grades, transcripts, attendance and enrollment -- they must make such information to teaches across campuses and regions, 24 hours a day.

Such systems must scale to the demands of large educational institutions without the licensing costs which would rule out use by all but the biggest schools and colleges.

Valhalla Data Systems, Inc., has addressed this problem with their flagship product, the Oseberg Education Administrative Suite. Oseberg harnesses PostgreSQL, Java and Web technologies, providing a solution which meets staff and management requirements. It scales from small institutions to large and provides information to administrators when and how they want it.

KEY CHALLENGES

The data stored in Oseberg is critical to education administrators and students. Valhalla Data Systems needed to select a database which was reliable, with demonstrable stability, which could scale and suit the budgets of their customers.

PostgreSQL was uniquely able to solve this problem: "PostgreSQL is unquestionably the best solution for our customers." says Michael Brown, CEO of Valhalla Data Systems. "The history and customer base of PostgreSQL make it an excellent choice for organizations looking for a robust, reliable database at a low cost."

AN OUTSTANDING SOLUTION

Existing academic management applications are not as flexible has many education institutions require. Rich client environments are fine when all staff are on a single local area network but Oseberg found that increasingly data must be available to administrators and teachers who are off campus, at home or at satellite buildings which are not well connected to the main campus.

With Oseberg administrators can use an interactive desktop client or web client, depending on their requirements and connectivity to the school network. "The real value to Oseberg is that we can solve this problem" says Brown.

It was important for Valhalla Data Systems and their customers that such a system, with two interfaces, not have two different code bases. Going down this path would have blown out the cost of development and increased bugs and flaws in the software. The combination of PostgreSQL and Java means that the same application code is used whether the user is in a Web browser environment, on a desktop, using Windows or Unix. Ensuring there was no duplication of code increases the stability of the application and decreased development time and cost.

POSTGRESQL BRINGS RELIABILITY

Oseberg is able to support schools with tens of thousands of students. At times, there are thousands of concurrent users, particularly at times when any downtime would be disastrous. The combination of PostgreSQL, Java and Valhalla's extensive experience in the industry has ensured that Oseberg is capable of coping with such demands.

"Many other low cost database solutions failed to meet our technical requirements," says Brown. "We require triggers, stored procedures, sequences, foreign keys and broad platform support." Truocmai Dinh, COO of Valhalla Data Systems, adds "Other low cost databases cannot match PostgreSQL's reputation. Schools respect a product that has its roots at the University of California at Berkley."

POSTGRESQL ENABLES RICH FEATURES

By selecting PostgreSQL as their database for Oseberg, Valhalla Data Systems has also been able to introduce features not seen in competing products, such as having environmental settings for each user driven by the database. In implementing such features, they have harnessed existing PostgreSQL functionality, which decreases development time and maintenance and increases reliability.

ABOUT VALHALLA DATA SYSTEMS

Valhalla Data Systems, Inc of Germantown MD provides a range of products and services for educational, commercial and government customers. Specializing in web based, component based, and object based architectures, Valhalla Data Systems has provided consulting services for many large government agencies and Fortune 500 companies. Valhalla Data Systems utilized these skills in building the next generation software suite for educational institutions.

The Oseberg Educational Administrative Suite is a complete software suite to manage schools, colleges and universities. It provides a student information system, grades, transcripts, scheduling and other modules for administrators.

Oseberg provides a unique software architecture that allows a single product that provides a web and client user interface.

MORE ABOUT VALHALLA DATA SYSTEMS

http://www.valhallads.com/

MORE ABOUT POSTGRESQL

http://www.postgresql.org/