



High Availability: From luxury to necessity in 10 years

Eric Hennessey

Group Technical Product Manager

Availability Clustering Solutions





Agenda

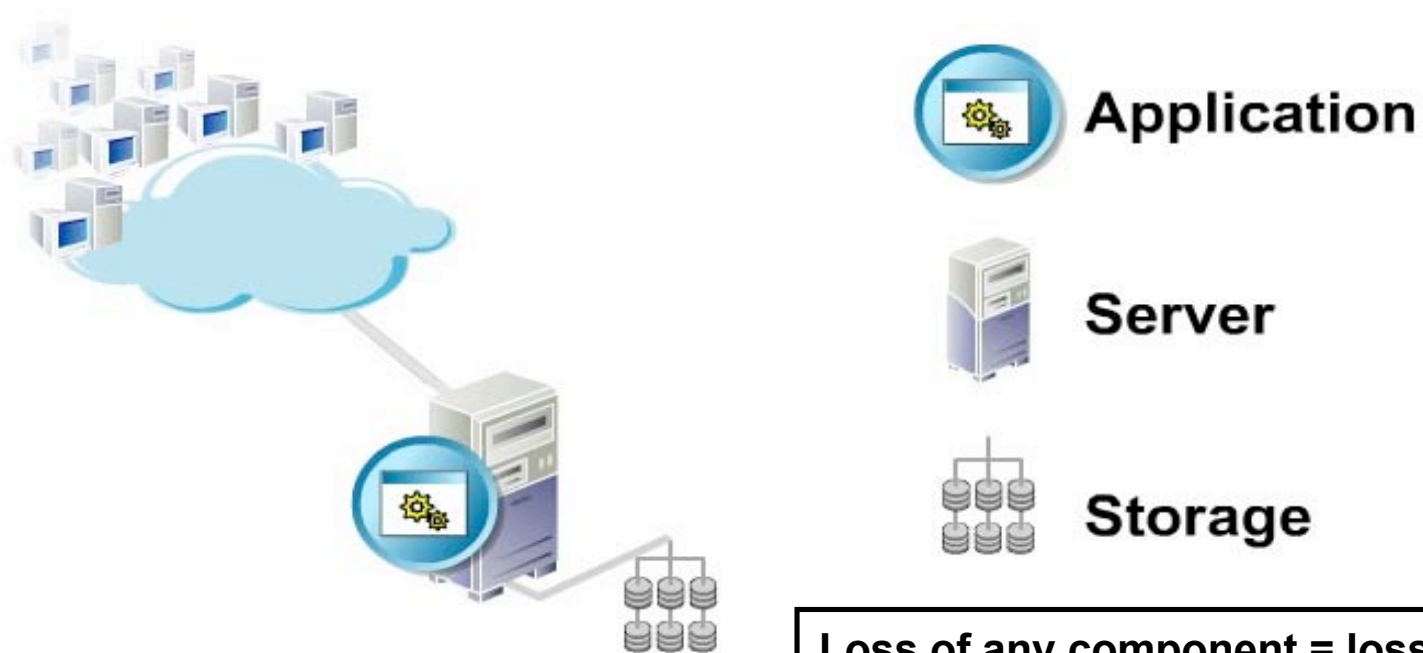
- ▶ Introduction
- ▶ The Dark Ages: Life before HA
- ▶ The Age of Enlightenment: Server-centric HA
- ▶ The Industrial Revolution: Improvements in storage technology
- ▶ The Information Age: Application-centric HA
- ▶ Futurama: Comprehensive data center automation



Introduction

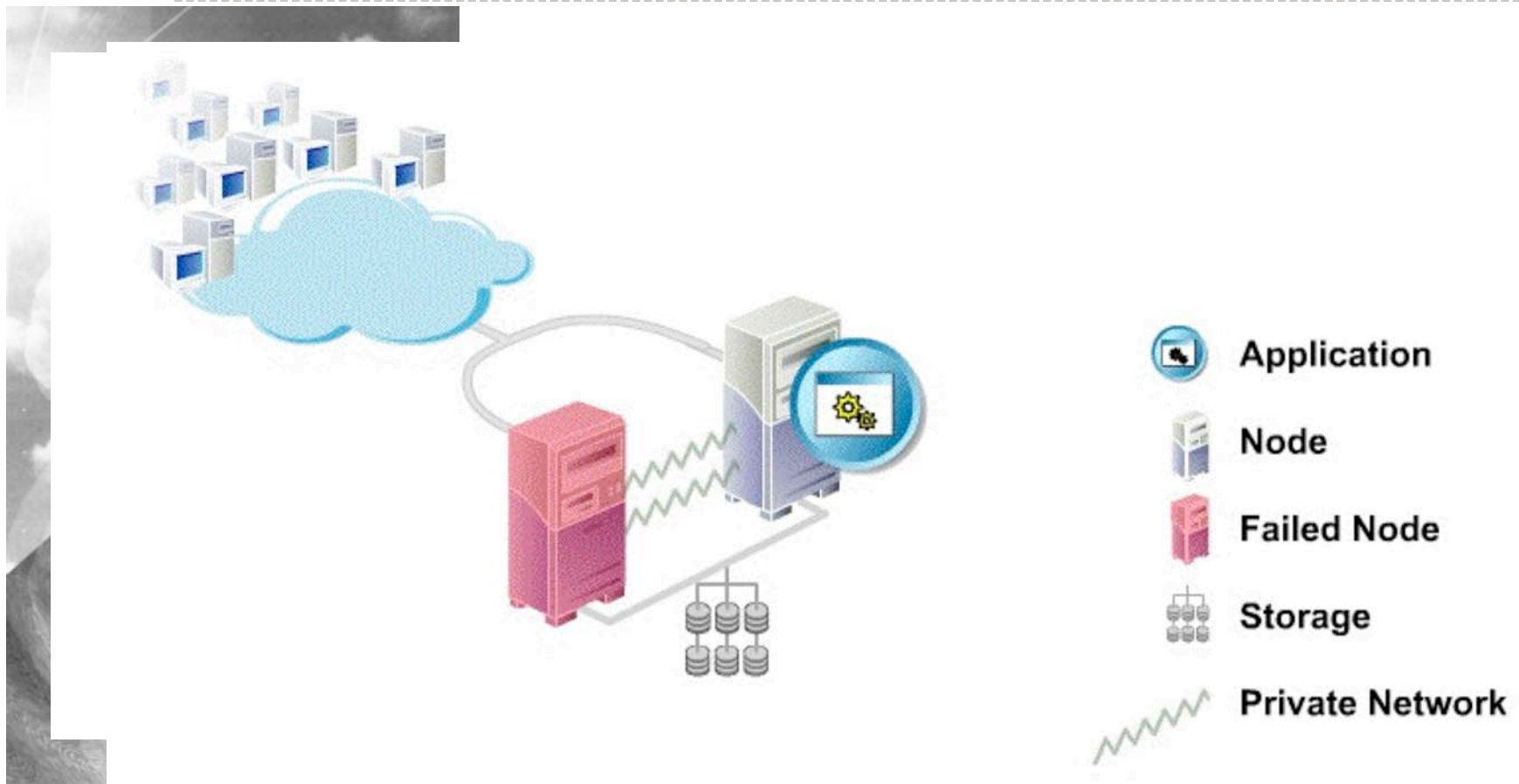
- ▶ Life was once pretty simple...we had an application that ran on a server. When that server (or application) broke, we'd fix it.
- ▶ As the business increasingly depended on an application, its downtime became more disruptive to the business.
- ▶ Basic HA solutions were introduced to respond quickly to outages.
- ▶ These solutions improved with technology over time.
- ▶ Faced with increasing demands for service availability, regulatory compliance and the complexity of today's applications and computing environments, even modern HA technologies will soon not be sufficient to meet our customer's demands.

The Dark Ages: Life before HA

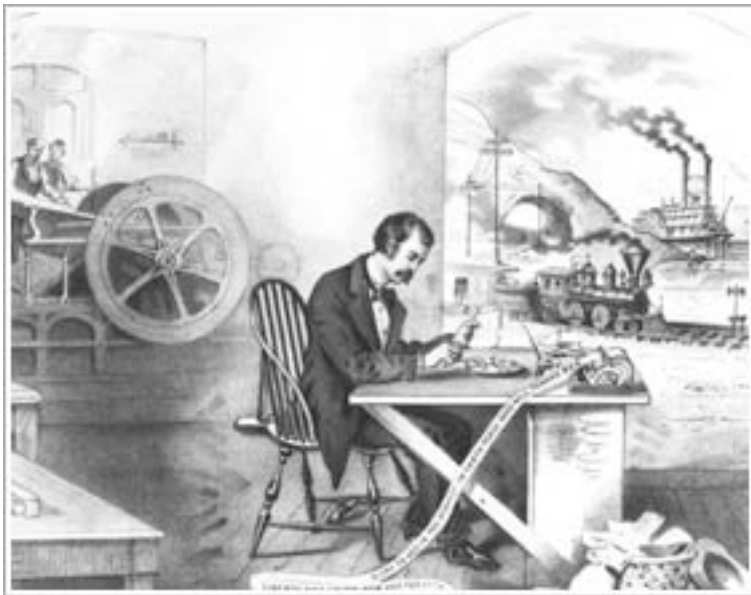


Loss of any component = loss of application availability = you are the most popular person till fixed

The Age of Enlightenment: Server-centric HA

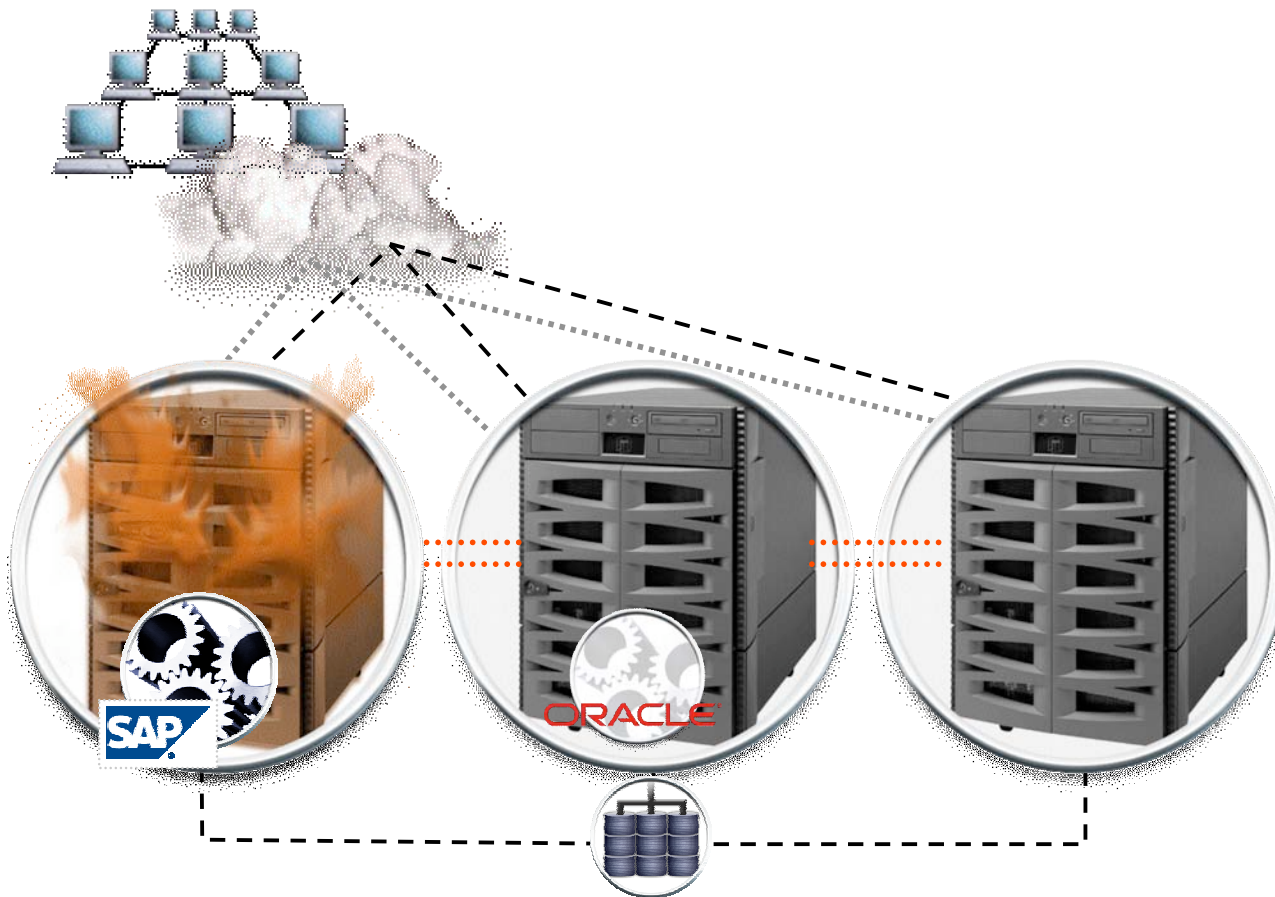


The Industrial Revolution: Improvements in Storage Technology

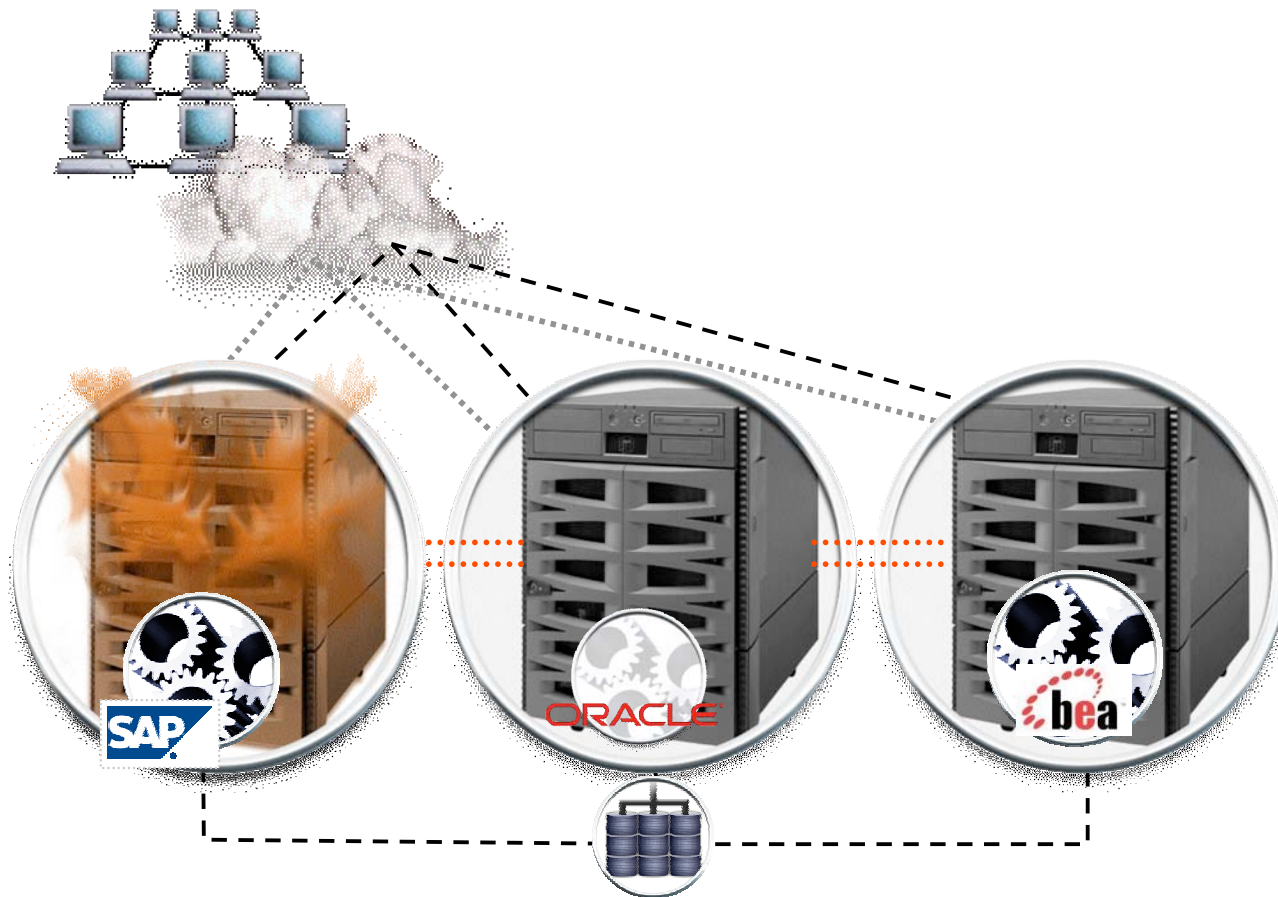


- ▶ Fibre Channel technology introduced in mid '90s
- ▶ Industry adoption of standards leads to improvements in the technology
- ▶ Storage becomes ubiquitous
- ▶ Virtually every server in the data center could have a path to the same storage
- ▶ Constraints of SCSI became a thing of the past

Modern clusters: N + 1 architecture



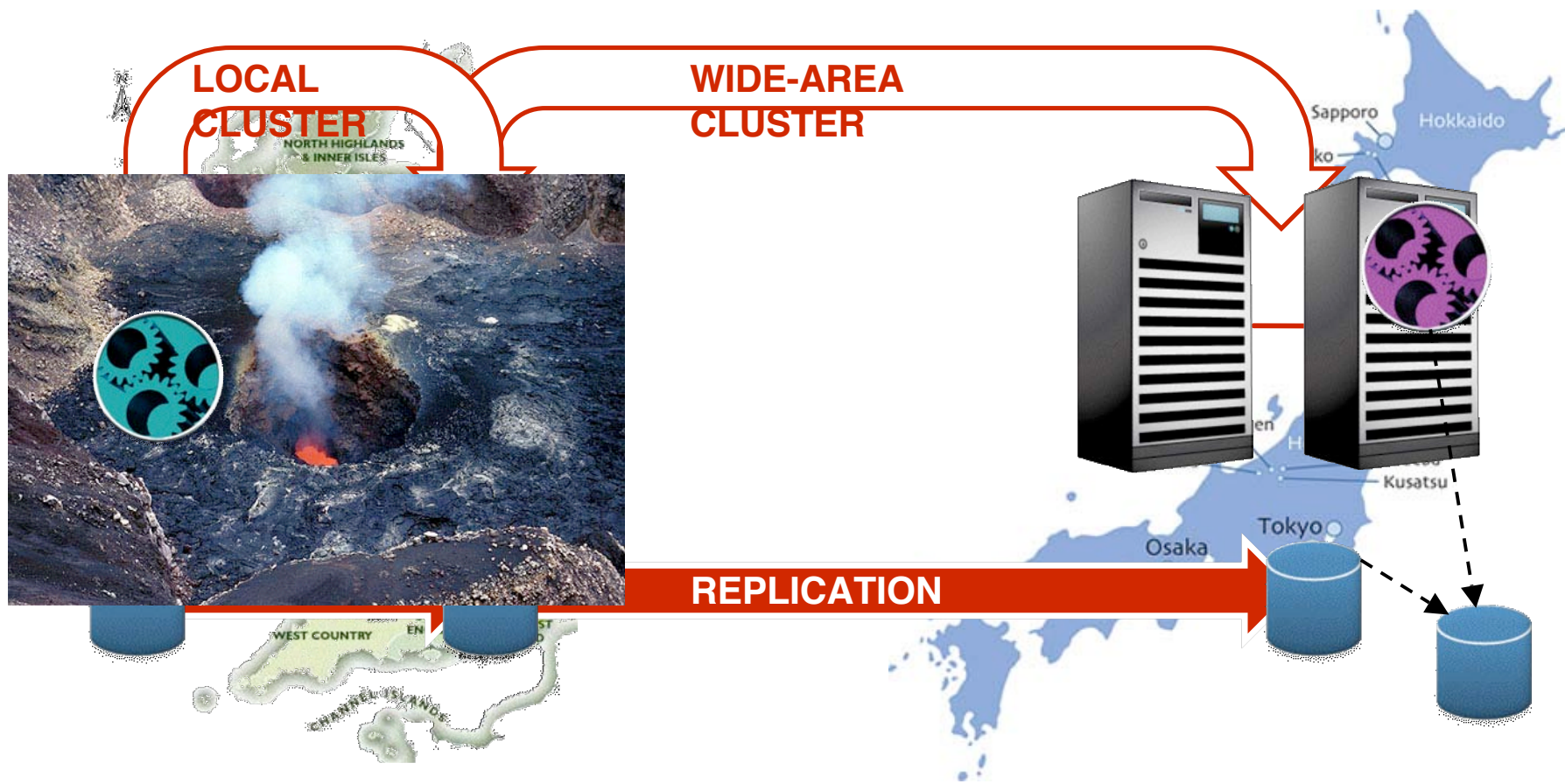
Modern clusters: N – to – N architecture



DR Automation

Production Site

DR Site



The Information Age: Application-centric HA

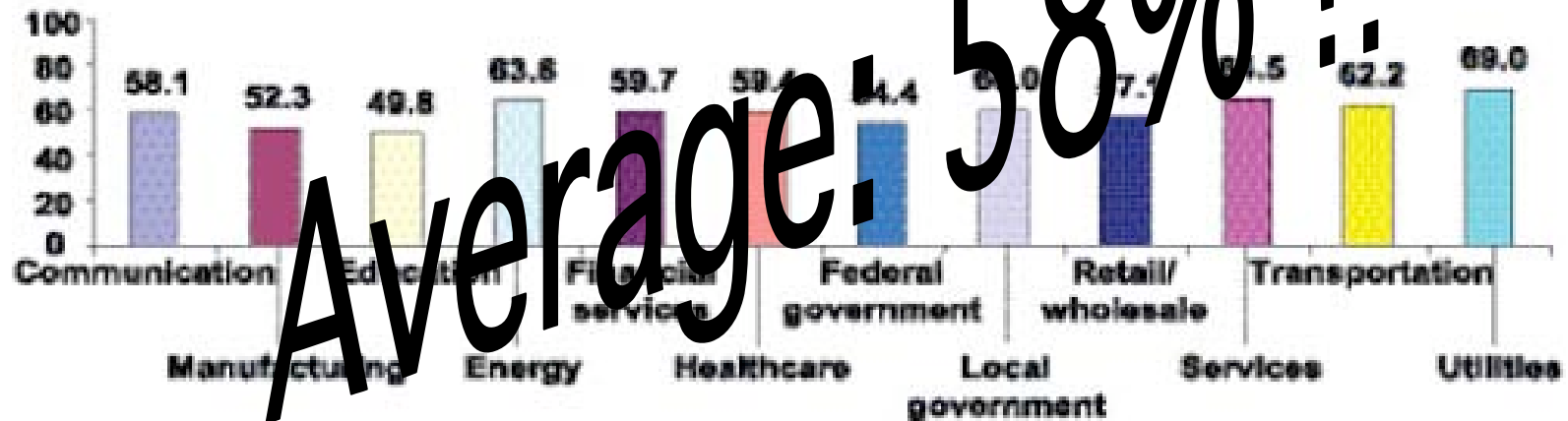


- ▶ Wide spread adoption of SAN & NAS technologies in the data center
 - We're able to do more, *but...*
- ▶ Applications can now run on virtually any machine in the data center with access to appropriate storage
 - Server utilization decreases
- ▶ Where IT solutions were once *merely* support the business, the IT solutions increasingly have become the business
 - Servers proliferate
- ▶ Where once we'd jump through hoops (and spend lotsa money!) to make a few services HA, now nearly *everything* has to be HA!
 - Application complexity increases
 - Few automated solutions are developed and deployed with the intent that they have 75% uptime

Percentage of functions considered Mission-Critical

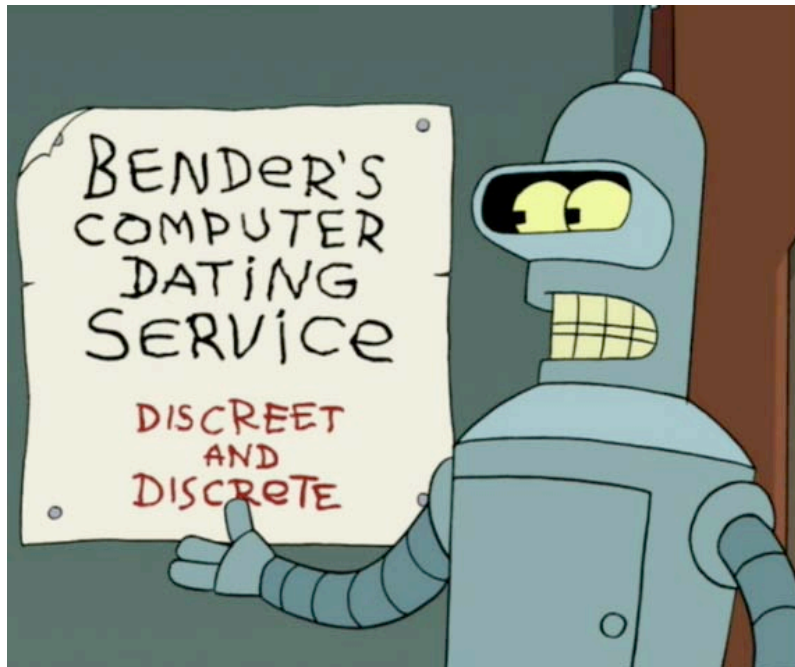
Figure 2.

Percentage of Business Functions Considered Mission-Critical by Industry



Source: Gartner

Futurama: Comprehensive data center automation

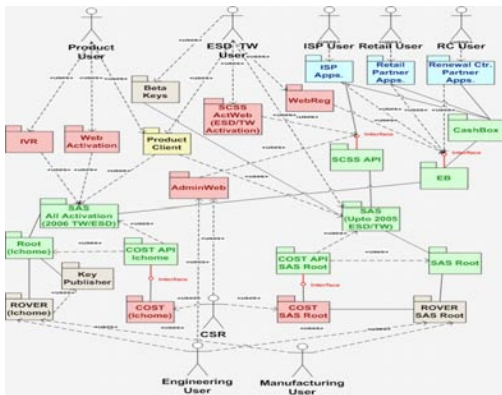


- ▶ Local and wide-area high availability can be achieved as a matter of routine through effective data center and applications management
 - Configuration Management
 - Server configuration
 - Application configuration
 - Dependency mapping
 - Server Provisioning Management
 - Standardize server builds
 - Application Placement and Run time Management
 - Manage application start, stop and failover



Server / Application Management Today: Complex!

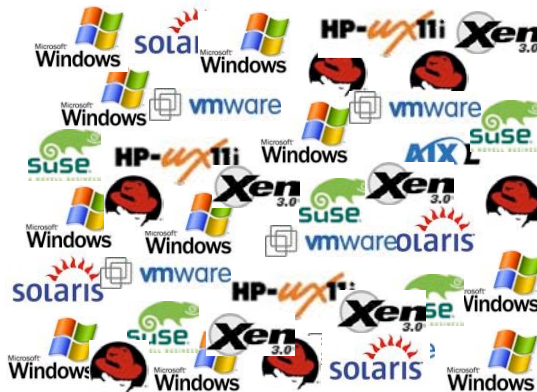
APP COMPLEXITY INCREASING



Client/Svr → Multi-tier → SOA
 More business critical apps
 SLA's continue to increase



SERVER & VIRTUAL SERVER PROLIFERATION



Scale-out Windows & Linux
 Scale-up UNIX + partitions
 Virtual server proliferation



LIMITED STAFF & BUDGET



IT talent scarce
 IT budgets tight
 Demands keep increasing

Biggest Challenges in Server/Application Management

Visibility

What is running in my data center?
Who's making changes? Am I in compliance?
How do I track utilization & align with the business?

Automation

How can I automate mundane tasks?
How do I maintain standards?
How can I pool servers & decouple apps?

Availability

How do I reduce planned & unplanned downtime?
How do I meet my DR requirements?
How do I track & deliver against SLAs?

Configuration Management

DETAILED DISCOVERY

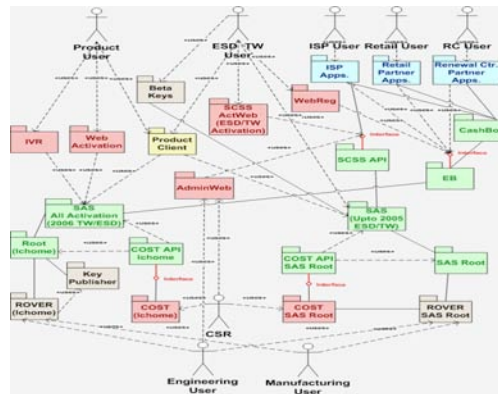


CUSTOM APPS
 ENTERPRISE APPS
 MIDDLEWARE S/W
 DATABASE S/W
 INFRASTRUCTURE S/W

OS | PATCHES | FILE SYSTEM | HARDWARE

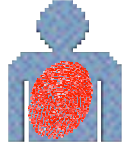
- All applications
- All running processes
- Detailed hardware info


DEPENDENCY MAPPING

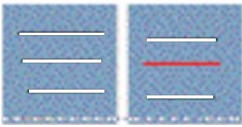


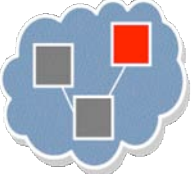
- App to app dependencies
- App to server dependencies
- App to file dependencies

CHANGE TRACKING

Who? 

When? 

Before/After? 

Impacted? 

- Real-time (industry unique)
- Configs, files, directories
- Server & app comparisons

Configuration Management: Why do it?

IMPROVE AVAILABILITY, PERFORMANCE

Track server, application drift that results in downtime
Conduct change impact analysis to prevent problems

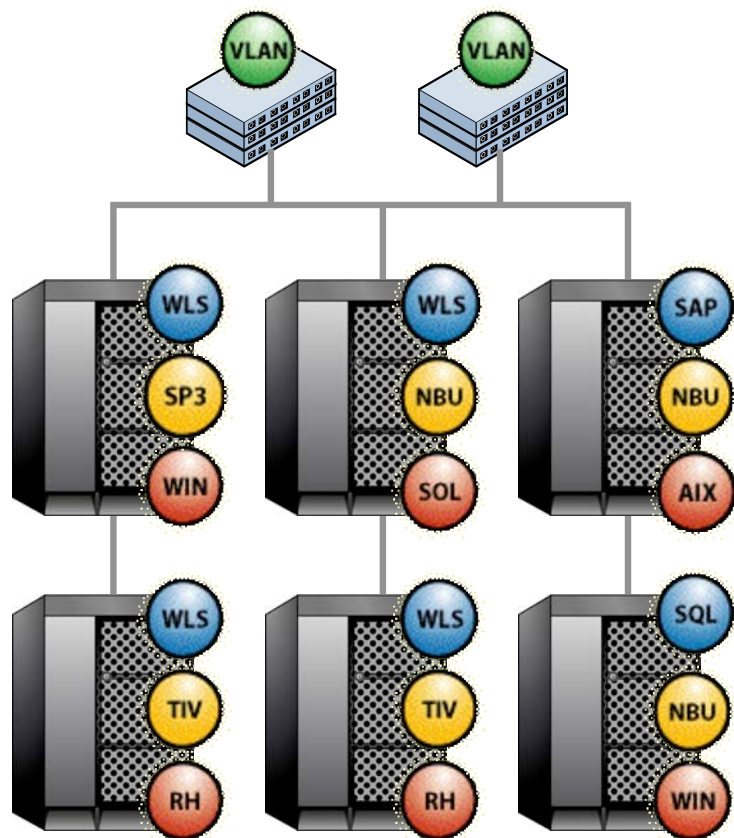
FIX PROBLEMS FASTER

Provide real time analysis of what changed in environment

COMPREHENSIVE CONFIGURATION INVENTORY

What servers, software, OS, Apps... are in my Data Center?

Server Provisioning



CONTROL NETWORK



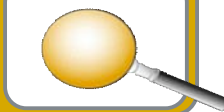
INSTALL APPLICATIONS



**INSTALL OS &
PERSONALIZE IMAGE**



DISCOVER



Server Provisioning: Why do it?

TEST & DEVELOPMENT

Rebuild a 20-server lab in 30 minutes

DUAL-USE DISASTER RECOVERY SERVERS

Use idle DR systems and rapidly re-provision when needed

NEW SERVER DEPLOYMENT & SERVER MIGRATION

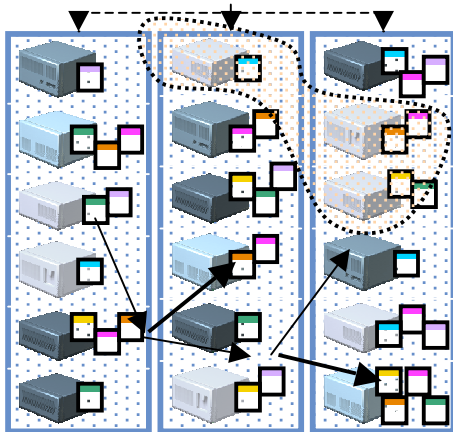
Deploy hundreds of servers a month
with standardized builds (with one sys admin)

APPLICATION AND PATCH DEPLOYMENT

Deploy 30 WebLogic apps in 1 hour

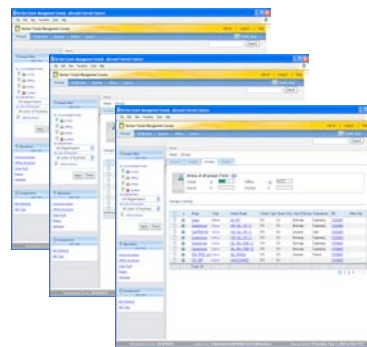
Application Management

APPLICATION RUN-TIME CONTROL



- ✓ Start, Stop, & Move Apps
- ✓ Manual / Schedule / Failure
- ✓ Priority / Dep'dcy / Resource

CENTRALIZED VISIBILITY & MANAGEMENT



- ✓ Real-time View of Apps /Svrs
- ✓ Simple Web-based Console
- ✓ Granular RBA & Security

DATA CENTER ASSET OPTIMIZATION



15%

- ✓ Server Consolidation
- ✓ Track & Enforce Utilization
- ✓ Execute Changes

Application Management: Why do it?

Manage large numbers of applications

Increase operator/admin capability

Manage Multi Tier Applications

Manage complex N-Tier apps as a single unit

Priority-based Disaster Recovery

Utilize servers hosting lower priority applications when needed

Capacity management

Optimize application distribution based on utilization information

Tying it all together

Application Management:

Application Management should work with the configuration management solution to:

- Test suitability of failover target nodes for ability to accept an application for placement
- Determine *which* nodes are suitable failover targets for an application

Control the start/stop/

ing
ns...

Application Management should work with the provisioning management solution to:

- Request additional server resources when failover targets are exhausted
- Direct provisioning management to reprovision servers at a DR location in the event of a site disaster

...move to another node



Summary

- ▶ High Availability solutions have evolved considerably from earlier technologies
- ▶ Disaster Recovery (wide-area HA) has become an integral component of local HA
- ▶ Increased complexity of applications and data center environment coupled with business requirements forces us to re-examine our approach to availability
- ▶ A structured, disciplined approach to data center management should result in high availability as a matter of course, not as the exception



Questions, answers & discussion

