

Funtank® SpringSource Enterprise Ready Server

Delivers Seamless Server Upgrades and Management to Candystand.com

FUNTANK®



SPRINGSOURCE RESULTS

SpringSource ERS delivers the following business results to Candystand.com:

- Reduced Administrative Time – Cut by 75%
- Lower Server Cost
- High Server Performance and Stability
- Reduced Website Downtime
- Tighter Website Security
- Greater Scalability

TESTIMONIAL

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Funtank®

Funtank, based in New York City, is a leading distributor and publisher of branded online gaming and entertainment. The company owns and operates Candystand.com, the web’s premier branded gaming portal which enables millions of users each month to play hundreds of Flash and Shockwave games – some of the most popular award-winning branded sports, arcade, card, puzzle and multiplayer games.

Challenge

Candystand.com runs on the Apache 2.2 Web Server and Apache Tomcat 5.5 Application Server. One of the main challenges for the website is to maintain Apache and Tomcat, which are both critical to the daily operation of Candystand.com

“If we need to upgrade Tomcat or Apache for any reason, and we had to do that on our own, it would be a massive undertaking,” says Constantin Koumouzelis, Vice President of Technology for Funtank, explaining that they would have to set up replicant environments of their current production environments, install the application upgrades, and then perform regression testing across the entirety of the application.

An added challenge is the ongoing maintenance of both Apache and Tomcat. Without support, Candystand.com would have to constantly be aware of the latest Apache and Tomcat vulnerabilities and figure out which security patches are needed. In addition, for any type of upgrade, they would have to determine how Apache or Tomcat would impact each other, which would require a major effort.

“It is not feasible.” Koumouzelis notes, “It is not worth the effort for us.”

Solution

To manage its web and application servers, Candystand.com utilizes SpringSource Enterprise Ready Server (ERS), the most comprehensive and widely distributed solution for Apache Web and Tomcat Application Server management. ERS delivers seamless server upgrades and management to Candystand.com.

“As a manager of the entire process, ERS is peace of mind for me, in terms of ensuring our platform is secure, up-to-date, and compatible with all its internal components,” says Koumouzelis. “Knowing we have ERS in our corner to take care of the servers means I don’t have to worry about it.”

Benefits

SPRINGSOURCE ERS DELIVERS THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS RESULTS TO CANDYSTAND.COM:

Reduced Administrative Time

“Comparing the time between using ERS versus doing everything ourselves, including downloading source and compiling different versions of Apache, Tomcat and everything else, ERS reduces our administrative time on servers by 75%,” says Koumouzelis. “With ERS, it takes almost no time for us to manage the applications from the server point of view. We don’t worry about compatibility, upgrades or regression testing.”

Lower Server Costs

“At the end of the day, ERS saves us time and money,” says Koumouzelis. “ERS definitely saves Candystand.com money in terms of the time we would need to pay our system administrators to administer Apache and Tomcat. In addition, ERS makes it more viable to use cost-effective open source options such as Tomcat and Apache. If we were using a non-open-source line of products, we would have to pay for licensing. While there are costs associated with ERS, the costs are drastically lower than using other commercial application servers.”

High Server Performance and Stability

According to Koumouzelis, Candystand.com’s server platform has been completely stable, which is critical to keeping the website up and running at top performance.

“Upgrading our servers through ERS helps our website performance stay high,” Koumouzelis confirms. “We cannot continue to use outdated software if there are performance gains from upgrading. As our site evolves over the years, we add new functionality and increase our user base. It is very important to keep implementing upgrades via ERS to increase performance as we grow.”

Koumouzelis explains that it is critical for the website to be operational 100% of the time, because the business is based on advertising revenue. He notes that there are plenty of other gaming portals, and if Candystand.com goes down, most users would not hesitate to look for online gaming elsewhere. “The bottom line is that every second our site is down is a second we are losing money,” he adds.

Reduced Website Downtime

ERS also reduces downtime related to installing upgrades, adding support for other technologies or deploying new servers. Koumouzelis says that without ERS, downtime associated with these tasks would be much longer.

Tighter Website Security

ERS ensures Candystand.com’s security by keeping the website’s servers up-to-date with the right security patches.

“Security is extremely important to us at Candystand.com,” Koumouzelis explains. “Our site provides content for the whole family, and it is very important that we maintain a face that is friendly to users. Consequently, making sure Apache and Tomcat

security is up-to-date, making sure any vulnerabilities are eliminated, is a priority, and ERS handles that for us.”

Greater Scalability

“Scalability is essential to our business,” Koumouzelis concludes. “Candystand.com is growing and we plan to continue adding servers in the future, and ERS will help us achieve that goal.”

ERS supports Candystand.com’s scalability by making it easier to add servers as needed to keep up with the website’s rapidly growing popularity.

About SpringSource

SpringSource, a division of VMware, Inc., (NYSE: VMW) and the leader in Java application infrastructure and management, provides a complete suite of software products that accelerate the entire build, run, manage enterprise Java application lifecycle. SpringSource employs the open source leaders who created and drive innovation for Spring, the de facto standard programming model for enterprise Java applications. SpringSource also employs the Java and Web thought leaders within the Apache Tomcat, Apache HTTP Server, Hyperic, Groovy and Grails open source communities. Nearly half of the Global 2000, including many world’s leading retail, financial services, manufacturing, healthcare, technology and public sector clients are SpringSource customers. For more information visit: www.springsource.com.



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