

OpTier and Sun Microsystems

Providing Crystal-Clear Visibility into Transaction Workload Management

Highlights

First to Deliver Transaction Workload Management Solutions

“OpTier is the first vendor to bring to market the capability of identifying the elements of a complex transaction and then optimizing the entire system that supports that transaction.”

Forrester Research

OpTier’s CoreFirst Solution

Benefits:

- Improve the quality of planning assumptions
- Successfully introduce and upgrade key applications and initiatives
- Confidently meet business users’ expectations for service
- Improve collaboration among different stakeholders
- Quickly resolve production performance issues
- Fairly allocate resources
- Appreciably increase server utilization and consolidate infrastructure

Solaris™ 10 Operating System (OS) and Container Capabilities:

- Increase resource utilization
- Deliver predictable service levels
- Ensure application isolation
- Enable greater consolidation
- Rapidly test and deploy applications

OpTier and Solaris 10 Advantages

- Simplify virtualization
- Isolate applications easily with flexible software boundaries
- Enhance cross-tier transaction management
- Optimize business output per container



A unique combination that dynamically assures IT business service levels and optimizes resource allocations – based on business needs – across the enterprise. OpTier’s CoreFirst software complements the power of the Sun Solaris 10™ OS to enhance resources, server utilization, business output, and Service Level Agreements (SLAs) across application tiers. OpTier introduces a transactional context for IT service management. The result: customers achieve a better return on investment from their existing infrastructure, and high-priority transactions get better access to resources.

Optimal transaction performance

With the escalating costs of managing vast networks of servers and software components, attention is shifting towards finding new ways to reduce IT infrastructure costs and better manage end-user service levels. Doing so requires visibility and control over complex sets of components operating across multiple tiers and involving different stakeholders (IT infrastructure, applications, and business groups). OpTier helps organizations protect their core services and users by identifying performance bottlenecks, highlighting transactions that exceed their fair share of resources, and allowing customers to set response times based on SLAs.

OpTier’s CoreFirst solution dynamically assures IT business service levels and optimizes resources for the enterprise. CoreFirst’s integration with Sun’s powerful Solaris 10 OS (which includes Solaris Containers, Zones, DTrace (Dynamic Tracing Technology), and resource management tools) extends its capabilities to automatically discover, track, and profile all transactions – across all tiers – within a virtualized environment. The Solaris 10 OS enables organizations to achieve new levels of resource optimization and set sophisticated allocation strategies per virtualized environment.

Virtualization can mean better resources optimization, but often introduces new management challenges. OpTier’s CoreFirst unique support for Solaris 10 provides virtualization that is simpler to implement and manage. Users gain, for the first time, visibility

into individual business transactions’ resource consumption per virtualized machine against the resources allocated to that machine– without adding complexity. With the combination of OpTier’s CoreFirst and Solaris 10, customers can simplify resource management, while gaining the advantage of clearly mapping IT business service topology at the transaction level and directly basing their optimization decisions on business needs.

Consolidation and virtualization projects that depend solely on technical parameters like CPU performance can create a management challenge. For example, it might be that transactions running on a 50% utilized container fail to meet SLAs, while transactions running on a 90% utilized container meet or even exceed their SLAs. Without gaining visibility into the exact transactions running on these two containers it would seem that the right action would be to shift resources to the saturated container, while the preferred course of action should be shifting resources to the 50% utilized container.

OpTier’s CoreFirst, based on end-to-end (rather than correlation methodologies), integrated with Solaris Containers, lets users optimize the business output for each container. Customers will find that the combined capabilities of OpTier and Solaris 10 lower their total cost of ownership and enable them to better align IT resources with business objectives. OpTier and Sun help IT organizations make virtualization and consolidation decisions based on business needs, while ensuring business service delivery and improving their infrastructure manageability.

Collaboration Drives The Results

The CoreFirst solution improves collaboration among different stakeholders by providing them with a common transactional context, reducing the cost and time to resolve performance issues. Whereas traditional monitoring solutions offer correlation via inference, CoreFirst lifts the veil by virtually “bar-coding” each transaction as it enters the system. Each bar-coded transaction can be tracked through all tiers including Web, application, database, and middleware servers. IT organizations can prioritize transactions based on detailed, business-related metrics from each tier and not just overall end-to-end response time information.

As leaders in Transaction Workload Management, OpTier’s and Sun’s combined solution is the only one that provides customers with transaction-based resource allocation strategies for the virtualized IT environment. With Solaris Containers and the Solaris 10 OS, companies can lower their costs, reduce down time, and gain greater utilization of resources to improve ROI. OpTier and Sun offer a unique approach that addresses the basic flaws in the underlying multi-tier infrastructure and delivers a policy-driven, proactive approach to assuring IT service levels at the granularity that matters – the transaction level.

Sun Innovation and CoreFirst Deliver Business Results

As the only industrial-grade UNIX® environment available for both UltraSPARC® and x86 platforms, the Solaris 10 OS allows organizations to select the right server for the right job. The highly stable Solaris OS with its unique features helps companies align IT with business objectives, automate IT service reporting, and optimize IT-dependent business processes.

Sun’s breakthrough approach to virtualization and software partitioning enables users to create many private execution environments within a single instance of the Solaris OS. Each Solaris Container

has its own identity, separate from the underlying hardware. This causes it to behave as if it is running on its own system, making consolidation simple, safe, and secure. Solaris 10 allows customers to implement sophisticated resource allocation to applications running within these virtualized environments.

The Solaris 10 OS also includes DTrace, a comprehensive observability framework. DTrace, with 40,000 built-in probes, enables IT personnel and developers to clearly and simply answer questions about the operating system and applications. CoreFirst’s capability to trace and monitor transactions across tiers while maintaining their business context is enhanced with DTrace, shortening the problem resolution and root cause analysis process.

Solaris 10 is optimized for Sun’s x64-bit SPARC and AMD Opteron processor-based systems. This makes it possible to create horizontally and vertically scaled infrastructures, and offers the flexibility to easily add compute resources. The Solaris OS runs on hardware ranging from laptops and single-board computers to data center and grid installations, while serving applications running from military command and control systems to telecommunications switches and stock trading.

While the Solaris 10 OS runs on over 500 platforms, customers that choose to run their critical business systems and applications on Sun SPARC- and x64-based servers can achieve greater alignment between high availability, scalability, provisioning, and performance. The rich combination of OpTier solutions, the Solaris 10 OS, and Sun servers enables businesses to get more out of their investments in hardware and software infrastructure as well as performance management. Whether a data center utilizes a single-vendor or heterogeneous environment, OpTier and Sun provide unprecedented visibility into the relationship between business services and IT infrastructure.

Learn More

For more information about OpTier visit www.optier.com/products. For more information about Sun Microsystems, visit sun.com. For further information on Solaris Containers visit sun.com/software/solaris.

CoreFirst Differentiating Value

CoreFirst stands apart from other service management solutions through its distinct business- transaction focus and its ability to actively control the infrastructure in addition to monitoring and alerting on performance issues. For example, whereas root cause analysis focuses on individual components, CoreFirst looks across the infrastructure; whereas synthetic monitoring looks at simulated transactions, CoreFirst monitors and controls real transactions. In fact, it monitors and controls each and every transaction. CoreFirst provides rapid problem identification and resolution by analyzing the actual transaction path, delivering business-focused performance metrics. This additional accuracy reduces the degree of false positives normally encountered in problem detection and resolution, leading to faster, more accurate problem identification and resolution cycles.

OpTier’s cross-tier transaction management enables its customers to manage their infrastructure based on business parameters, not CPU performance. This capability is enhanced when running in a Solaris Container virtualized environment. OpTier and Sun offer the only solution that enables actual business transactions performance monitoring and workload management per and across a virtualized server.



Sun Microsystems, Inc. 4150 Network Circle, Santa Clara, CA 95054 USA Phone 1-650-960-1300 or 1-800-555-9SUN Web sun.com

©2006 Sun Microsystems, Inc. All right reserved Sun, Sun Microsystems, the Sun logo, and Solaris are trademarks or registered trademarks of Sun Microsystems, Inc. in the United States and other countries. All SPARC trademarks are used under license and are trademarks or registered trademarks of SPARC International, Inc. in the United States and other countries. Products bearing SPARC trademarks are based upon an architecture developed by Sun Microsystems, Inc. UNIX is a registered trademark in the United States and other countries, exclusively licensed through X/Open Company, Ltd.

