



Why Expertise Matters for Enterprise Systems Upgrades

A large manufacturing client making a major systems upgrade was able to improve performance while reducing its data center footprint and licensing and power costs, thanks to Jeskell's expert consulting services and IBM POWER8 servers.

The Challenge

For an industrial client with vast quantities of complex database and application data, standing up a new data center posed a high-stakes problem. While the client was happy with its existing IBM POWER7 servers, it now had the option to upgrade to the latest generation of POWER8 servers—or move to another platform entirely. Either way, a seamless transition would be crucial.

The client needed fail-safe functionality for its enterprise applications, which supported the design and manufacturing of various high-tech products. Yet it also needed to accommodate for increasing but not-quite-predictable capacity growth. In other words, top-of-line performance and reliability were just as important as scalability. Cost implications were also a concern. The client worried that accumulating enough servers to support its complex applications and databases would greatly increase its data center footprint, resulting in higher data center real estate, power consumption, and software licensing costs.

Having worked with Jeskell many times before, the client sought our trusted expertise in configuring and building out a server infrastructure that would set the base for their new data center.

The Solution

Jeskell quickly realized that a careful analysis of POWER8 options, ranging from scale-out to enterprise-class, would be necessary to give the client the depth of knowledge needed to make the right decision.

Already well-versed in the client's complex and critical server infrastructure requirements, Jeskell had a good understanding of what the client would value most. With the move to the new data center, the client was thinking about moving its POWER7 workload to standard commodity x86 servers; but because its end-user put a premium on performance, Jeskell knew commodity servers would be logically inconsistent with that priority.

While a large number of commodity servers could have been roped together to form sufficient memory and processing to handle the high quantities of complex data, it would have been clunky—like roping together a thousand hamsters to do the work of a single horse.

Jeskell recommended a more efficient approach. Tapping into decades of experience architecting resilient and high performing systems, Jeskell knew that IBM POWER8 servers would provide significantly faster processing times than the x86-based alternatives. POWER8 servers would allow the client to process terabytes of data in mere milliseconds, and run more processing on fewer servers. Jeskell also knew first-hand that reliability would not be an issue: POWER7 servers had been running in the client's environment for over a decade without a single unscheduled outage.

The Outcome

Thanks to Jeskell's understanding of the client's needs and priorities, we were able to recommend a tailored solution that met the goals of top-notch performance, reliability, and unrestricted scalability. The client saved money with the recommended solution by keeping its footprint smaller than an x86 alternative would have required. That allowed it to save on power and software licenses, due to the high-volume core processing power of IBM POWER8. With Jeskell's help, the client selected the right platform for its needs, and achieved its goal of a seamless transition.



Is your organization considering a major systems upgrade?
Contact Jeskell to learn how we can put you on the path to success.

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