

SOLUTION OVERVIEW	
Client	Standard Bank GTI
Industry	Financial
Solution Type	Data Management
Technologies	Windows 2008 R2 Enterprise Edition, SQL Server 2008 R2 Enterprise Edition
Completion Date	2013-01-14

1. The Client

The Standard Bank of South Africa Limited is one of South Africa's largest financial services groups. It operates in 30 countries around the world, including 17 in Africa.

2. The Problem

Each individual business unit within the Bank runs their own production and development environments and all contain numerous if not significant SQL servers and associated databases. The disparate nature causes major issues with license tracking, support of the environments, change control, and version issues. The strategy to resolve these issues was to create a central SQL environment with different classes of service so that all support, maintenance, and administration could be done from a central location.

3. The Solution

It was Standard Bank's aim to consolidate the 100+ disparate SQL servers (versions 2000, 2005, 2008, & 2008 R2) from the individual business units into a centrally managed and maintained service based SQL architecture. The new SQL clusters were built within the GTI shared infrastructure, and the SQL services were then sold back into the Bank under different Classes of Service (CoS). Three SQL clusters were created, one for each CoS namely Gold (High availability & Online DR), Silver (High availability & Offline DR), Bronze (Offline DR only). High availability (HA) provided by Microsoft Failover Clustering. Online Disaster Recovery (DR) provided by stretched MS Failover cluster between 2 data centres. Offline DR provided by SQL replication to secondary data centre. All SQL databases were to be upgraded to SQL 2008 R2 during this project.

4. The Technology

The technologies used for this solution were as follows:
Windows Server 2008 R2 Enterprise Edition
Microsoft Failover Clustering
SQL Server 2008 R2 Enterprise Edition

CONTACT US

Tel: 011 807 9575

E-Mail: info@isolve.co.za

Web: www.isolve.co.za

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5. The Benefits

Standard Bank moved towards a SQL consolidation strategy to improve the utilization of hardware throughout the organization, and the focus of the project was to consolidate over 100 physical SQL servers into 6 different clusters ranging from 3 nodes to 10 nodes initially. The ROI is noticed through reduced hardware spend throughout the organization, improved availability and reduction in downtime due to clustering and DR implementations, and finally through possibility of reducing IT headcount as the consolidated environment did not require as many support staff. The ability to centralize the licensing would also help significantly in accurately identifying and licensing Microsoft products within the Bank.

CONTACT US

Tel: 011 807 9525

E-Mail: info@isolve.co.za

Web: www.isolve.co.za

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