



TURBO CHARGING PROCESSING TIME AND INCREASING CAPACITY TO MEET INCREASING APPLICATIONS AND ENROLLMENT

Banner by Ellucian running on the Oracle Exadata Database Machine has increased the performance of enterprise applications tenfold at Higher Colleges of Technology (HCT), and is enabling it to implement new applications and access current data to better support its students, faculty, and staff.

“The Higher Colleges of Technology are constantly growing and developing, which means that our faculty, staff, and students all require their tasks to be completed in the quickest and most efficient manner possible. With this agreement, we have the resources to better support them to reach their goals,” said Dr. Tayeb Kamali, Vice Chancellor of the HCT.

The Higher Colleges of Technology in Abu Dhabi is the largest higher education system in the United Arab Emirates, supporting more than 18,000 students and 2,000 staff members on 17 campuses. It is the first institution in the Middle East to implement Oracle Exadata for Banner. Ellucian worked closely with Oracle to configure Banner by Ellucian to the Exadata Database Machine so that functional tasks are processed very fast and in a shorter window of time, even during peak usage loads like registration, orientation, and payroll processing. During testing, Banner by Ellucian running on the Oracle Exadata



كليات التقنية العليا
HIGHER COLLEGES OF TECHNOLOGY

PROFILE:

- United Arab Emirates
- Enrollment: 18,000
- <http://www.hct.ac.ae/>

CHALLENGES:

- CPUs reached capacity during execution of large processes
- More users demanding more applications and quicker processing
- Lengthy processing time delayed access to current data

SOLUTION:

- Banner® by Ellucian™ on the Oracle® Exadata Database Machine

RESULTS:

- Performance of enterprise applications has increased tenfold
- Total resource utilization has not gone above 15%
- Colleges have capacity to add new applications
- Reduced IT time to support multiple servers and maintain databases

Database Machine performed exceptionally well, reaching up to 19 times more registrations per hour and five times faster processing of higher education's toughest load: peak concurrent student registration.

HCT was quick to embrace the solution, continuing its path of adopting new technologies that will benefit its faculty, management, staff, and students. "A mainstay of HCT's success is the use and integration of the latest technology available. We want to ensure that our students are capable of using cutting-edge technology, so that they have the skills and knowledge to contribute to the UAE economy and to their communities when they graduate," said Dr. Kamali.

For example, HCT Foundation Programme students have been using tablet technologies, such as the Apple iPad, as part of their studies in order to become familiar with mobile learning and technologies. In addition, the Colleges provide many self-service and online applications. HCT was the first post-secondary institution in the region to implement Banner Flexible Registration and the Ellucian Payment Center by TouchNet®. The college's administrative needs are being met by the Student, Finance, Human Resource, and Payroll modules of Banner by Ellucian.

However, the growing list of applications and mobile access placed pressure on HCT's server capacity. In addition, CPUs were reaching capacity whenever large processes - like grade roll, GPA calculation and payroll - were running. Also, the processes were time consuming. Before running Banner on the Oracle Exadata Database Machine, completing end-of-semester processes consumed 100 percent of CPU and took two to three days. Now the processes are completed within a few hours, and total resource utilization has not gone above 15 percent.

The additional capacity also is making it possible for HCT to add new applications, like Banner Flexible Registration, to better support its students. The increased capacity also enables users to access data dynamically from the Banner system. Access to the up-to-date data helps the colleges take action more quickly to support students. By using this new product staff can see within one day the students who have failed and need to retake courses, and can advise them sooner on how to move forward.

DATABASE CONSOLIDATION DELIVERS COST SAVINGS AND REDUCES IT SUPPORT

The Oracle Exadata Database Machine is also delivering cost and time savings for the IT department. "We consolidated our six databases into one server, offsetting the cost of our Exadata machine and we expect cost savings in the long run," said Khalid Tariq, Head of Enterprise Systems Development. "It also supports the college's green initiative."

Also, the amount of administrative support required to maintain the servers has been reduced, and DBA tasks have been simplified as all critical databases - including the learning management system and data warehouse - are hosted on the same machine. In addition, it takes less time for IT staff to execute batch processes and reports.

"We continue to see increases in the number of HCT online and data systems users who require that their work is completed as quickly as possible, as well as increases in the demand for more applications and resources," Khalid Tariq said. "By running Banner on the Oracle Exadata Database Machine, we can meet their demands for performance now, and we have the capacity to grow to meet their demands in the future."

ABOUT ELLUCIAN

Ellucian helps education institutions thrive in an open and dynamic world. We deliver a broad portfolio of technology solutions, developed in collaboration with a global education community, and provide strategic guidance to help education institutions of all kinds navigate change, achieve greater transparency, and drive efficiencies. More than 2,400 institutions in 40 countries around the world look to Ellucian for the ideas and insights that will move education forward, helping people everywhere discover their futures through learning.

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