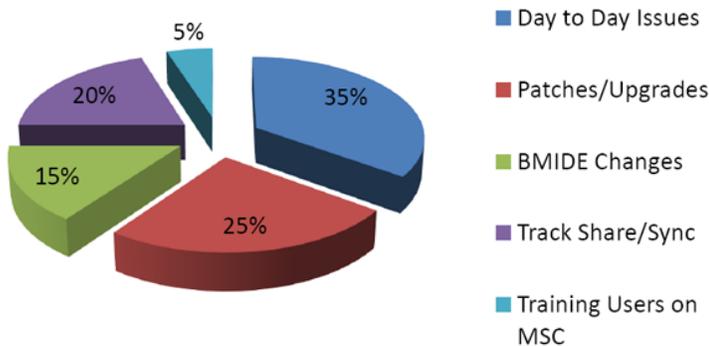


Many organizations using Teamcenter for a long period of time have had to implement multi-site installations because of performance issues across large geographies. With the latest versions of Teamcenter, version 8.3 in particular, supporting 300ms latency plus store and forward, system architects can now consider single-site implementations with similar or better performance than multi-site solutions. That sounds great, but how will the existing sites be consolidated into a single Teamcenter site?

“Before considering the site consolidation strategy, it is important to understand the reasons for consolidating,” said Raj Sundaram, Solutions Architect. “It is a good idea to understand how much support is required to maintain the current multi-site installation.” Start by tracking multi-site support requests by type, such as day-to-day issues, patches and upgrades, BMIDE changes, share and sync, and multi-site user training. If the day-to-day issues, share and sync, or multi-site user training categories cause significant support time on a regular basis, then consider consolidation.

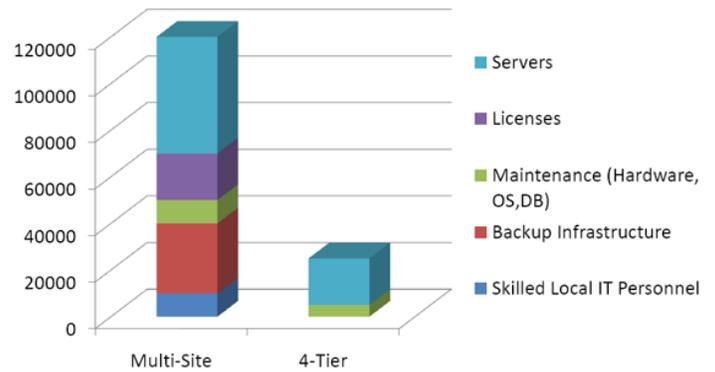
The following table is a sample multi-site support request breakdown:

Multi-Site Support Activities



Other considerations are hardware and infrastructure costs. Generally, the costs for maintaining a multi-site installation are three times higher than a comparable 4-tier installation. Cost considerations include servers, licenses, maintenance (hardware, OS, database), backup infrastructure, and skilled IT personnel.

The following table is a sample multi-site maintenance cost breakdown:



“Once the support reasons, cost, and performance considerations are compiled, acceptable performance targets should be established for the system,” said Sundaram. “Once those are established, it’s time to start planning the site consolidation.”

Planning

Refer to Table 1 for the four key stakeholder groups to consider during the site consolidation planning process.



Table 1 Four Key Stakeholder Groups

Stakeholder	Concerns
Teamcenter team	Technical team responsible for leading and configuring the system consolidation
IT	Team responsible for hardware, OS, database, and backup infrastructure portion of project
Management	Approves cost or resources for consolidation, helps guide implementation timing
Key users/Process owners	Provide user perspectives like performance metrics, workflow considerations, etc.

Include ample time for data cleanliness in the consolidation plan. Before consolidation, consider resolving ownership problems using Multi-site Assist (MSA) to identify and fix issues. Depending upon the number of sites and data being consolidated, multiple iterations of the MSA may be necessary to properly extract, analyze, and fix data. Best practices are to maintain focus by concentrating on issues within the source site.

Consider using the data model approach for the site consolidation. The source model elements must be incorporated into the target data model. Consolidating a superset templates model is easier than two templates with the same name that have differences. Even if they are supposed to be the same, be sure to run the `bmidc_comparator` to see actual differences between the two. It is also suggested that all Siemens and third-party template dependencies are verified. Using database verify provides additional insights into site differences. Use care with type conversions during consolidation because they require mapping and can be very complex.

Strategy and Execution

There are three critical strategy and execution processes to consider during site consolidation – server relocation, target readiness, and groundwork.

Server relocation involves setting the relocated source server to the target location and converting all source clients to Source Server 4-Tier. This makes transfers easier as they do not have to go over the network. This is ideal but not required. Target readiness requires configuring the target BMIDE template with the necessary changes then deploying it, as well as configuring workflows, accesses, and other non-BMIDE configurations like organization. Groundwork involves transferring ownership of all items that have not

been modified during the past six months, as well as identifying and cancelling active processes that are no longer needed. Identifying and cancelling active processes that are no longer needed is a critical step.

Next, iterated transfers of data not data not modified for 6 months, 3 months, and 1 month intervals should be performed, followed by starting to communicate with users on check-outs and active processes.

Best practices suggest a two phase go-live process. Go-live phase one involves transferring all items, except those in process, over a weekend. Other Go-live phase one steps include configuring source clients for both source and target sites, with the source site configured to only allow completion of active processes.

Go-live phase two includes cancelling or recreating (at target site) all active processes, transferring all items to the target site and then ensuring that the source clients only have access to the target site.

The final site consolidation step is system cleanup, which involves performing the following activities on all sites, including the target site:

- Resolve source site owned objects
- Delete export records
- Delete stubs
- Delete site references
- Delete site definition

“Performing a site consolidation requires careful planning and execution,” suggests Sundaram. “Following suggested best practices and taking care during the consolidation should result in a successful outcome.”

For more information, or to request assistance with a site consolidation, visit www.mercuryplm.com/contact.php.

Mercury PLM Services Unique Perspective

Mercury's differing approach concentrates on understanding your process as a must for success. A process-centric approach requires businesses to review and question existing work streams to understand "why," "what," and "how" work should be done to establish efficient cross-functional work flows that are consistent, repeatable and scalable for growth.

Mercury also offers a unique perspective for helping

organizations that are considering a Product Lifecycle Management implementation because Mercury lives and breathes PLM from a manufacturing business user's vantage point.

Because Mercury works in a dynamic, global product-development environment that supports a worldwide manufacturing footprint, Mercury has a user's perspective that helps drive results and realize improvements. Several of Mercury's experts also have been deeply involved with our ISO 9000 certification effort, as well as configuration management, and engineering document-management practices. ■

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