



Bayer India Relieves System Downtime Pain with MIMIX®

Mumbai is a city of contrasts - a metropolis with over 14 million inhabitants. Recognized as India's financial capital, Mumbai is the place of choice for some of the world's biggest and best-known business houses which operate across the cityscape. Thane is a large suburb and among the prominent industrial hubs located in the eastern part of the city. Home to several reputed domestic and multinational companies, Thane is also a strategic location for Bayer's India operations.



Bayer

ous intermediates, dyes and pharmaceuticals including the "drug of the century," Aspirin, which was launched onto the market in 1899.

Today, Bayer is a global enterprise represented by around 350 companies employing well over 100,000 professionals on all continents. Headquartered in Leverkusen, Germany, the Group recorded sales of 29,624 million Euros for fiscal year 2002.

Bayer - A Fascinating Journey From Dyes To CD-ROMs

Bayer was founded on August 1, 1863 in Barmen, a small town in Germany by dye salesman Friedrich Bayer (1825-1880) and master dyer Johann Friedrich Wescott (1821-1876), with an objective of manufacturing and selling synthetic dyestuffs. Since inception, the company laid a strong focus on research and expanded rapidly - from a staff of three in 1863 to over 300 in 1881, producing numer-

Bayer has Four Independent Operating Sub Groups:

- Bayer Healthcare
- Bayer CropScience
- Bayer Polymers
- Bayer Chemicals

These entities are supported by service companies called Bayer Business Services, Bayer Technology Services, and Bayer Industry Services. Bayer's products are utilized in some way in virtually every field of human activity.

In India, Bayer focuses on three areas: Agro Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals and Rubber Chemicals. The operations are through seven group companies of which two are located in Baroda, two in Chennai and three in Thane at Mumbai.



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Building IT Capability to Address Growing Needs

Data generated from these companies was initially managed using a single IBM® AS/400® model 620 server using BAYMAP, a financial application program developed internally for use across Bayer operations worldwide. As the number of transactions grew, Bayer took a decision to consolidate the entire operation with a special emphasis on security and availability of data. A study of several solutions convinced the Group that the combined IBM services and Lakeview Technology's MIMIX® solution would be their best choice. "We have a good relationship with IBM and are confident with their service and support. When we studied the MIMIX solution proposed by IBM, we knew it was the one that best suited our requirement," claims **Mr. Anirudh Telkikar, Head of Information Systems at Bayer.**

The Hardware and Communications Environment

Currently, two data centers support Bayer's IT operations - one in Baroda, and one in Thane. Bayer's current production system consists of an IBM AS/400-820 server with 1 GB main memory and 236 GB of RAID 5 disk located in Thane.

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The backup server is an IBM AS/400-620 located in Baroda. Between the production and backup machine is a 256Kb link dedicated to MIMIX replication. This installation at Thane captures and stores all transaction data from the seven Bayer companies across India.

In addition, the Bayer operation at Baroda has an AS/400-

600 that is also configured with MIMIX. A 2 Mbps leased line connects this server with the production server at Thane. Key applications being protected by MIMIX include MAPIX, an ERP application, and BAYMAP, a proprietary financial accounting package developed by Bayer. Both of these applications are hosted on the production server. GPS (Graphical Performance Series), a data warehousing tool customized for BAYMAP, runs on the backup 620 server.



Mr. Anirudh Telkikar
Head of Information Systems at Bayer

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Data from the Thane center is also replicated to the model 600 at Baroda. This allows all querying activities in Baroda to be handled by the local server, eliminating data transfer delays that would occur if the queries were handled by the 820 at Thane.

Over 50,000 transactions per month from across India are captured on the production server at Thane. These include production, inventory, sales and distribution, and financial transactions originating from the seven data centers and the channel. The channel's C & F agents, scattered over 50 locations

across the country, are each connected to one of the centers through VSA, lease lines, ISDN or PSTN. The centers themselves are connected to the Thane server through leased lines.

The MIMIX Advantage

MIMIX, the IBM eServer iSeries™ Availability market leader, played a major role in Bayer's consolidation project. MIMIX maintains near real-time replicas of critical data, applications and system objects. It can also constantly monitor system functions and automatically switch users to a backup system in case of sudden production system failure. The other advantage with MIMIX is that system administrators can conveniently switch users to the backup system when a primary system must be shut down for scheduled maintenance or upgrades.

All these features and functions are exceptionally important

benefits for the Bayer India operation, according to **Mr. Govind R. Ambardekar, Manager of Information Management**. "Availability of data in the event of a failure was a very critical aspect and automatic backup was absolutely crucial. Today we are assured of a backup that is current up to the last transaction, thanks to MIMIX. That is really reassuring," says **Mr. Ambardekar**.

"Our dependency on computers is more than ever before and our data is so crucial to our operations that I wouldn't even dare to think of a system failure. The big reassurance is that whatever the contingency, our data is absolutely safe, thanks to MIMIX."

Since implementing MIMIX, Disaster Recovery plan at Bayer tremendously improved. "We used to back up the data manually at the end of the day using tape drives. This meant the loss of transactions of up to one full day in the event of a failure," says **Mr. Tushar M. Patil, Manager, Information Systems**.

Easy Implementation and Support Through IBM

IBM provided consultancy, installation, technical support and training on MIMIX for Bayer India. IBM is a Lakeview Business Partner and an authorized MIMIX Solution Provider in India. "Our relationship with IBM goes back several years and we were very happy with their support," says **Mr. Ambardekar**.

The entire implementation was done in phases over five or six months. IBM's effort to provide excellent services made the implementation goes smoothly. "We encountered quite a few challenges when it came to backing up BAYMAP data. In fact, the goal of our effort was to replicate all of the

libraries with MIMIX and we were successful in doing that thanks to IBM team," says **Mr. Telkikar**.

Effective Disaster Recovery Plan for the Dynamic Organization

Responding to the market growth, now Bayer achieved its goal to make the system highly available at all times. "Bayer is a dynamic organization, one with an ever increasing market presence. This translates to an increasing volume of data that needs to be secure and of course easily accessible," says **Mr. Vikram Rangnekar, Technical Sales Support at ITS, IBM Global Services India**. "The combination of IBM services and MIMIX solution is the perfect match and we are satisfied with what we have achieved with our installation."

Mr. Atul Samalia, Head of Information Management at Bayer, is pleased to see the outcome. "To effectively implement a Disaster Recovery plan, we realize that we should have the backup server at a remote physical location, which is what we are working on. As of now, I am satisfied with what MIMIX has delivered for our High Availability needs. Our dependency on computers is more than ever before and our data is so crucial to our operations that I wouldn't even dare to think of a system failure. The big reassurance is that whatever the contingency, our data is absolutely safe, thanks to MIMIX," sums up **Mr. Samalia**. ↴



Mr. Govind Ambardekar
Manager of Information Management at Bayer



Mr. Atul Samalia
Head of Information Management at Bayer

Bayer India

Regional Headquarter: Mumbai, India

Core Business: Pharmaceutical

Platforms: IBM® AS/400® model 620 and eServer iSeries model 820

Key Applications: MAPIX, BAYMAP (a proprietary financial accounting package), and GPS (Graphical Performance Series)

High Availability Solution: MIMIX® from Lakeview Technology



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