Unisys ClearPath Forward® integrated stacks

Product Information Sheet

The limits of choice

When purchasing and implementing IT systems, it's common practice for organizations to source components from multiple vendors.

Whether adopting the newest technologies or opting for the latest trends, having the flexibility to select from a wide array of available options should result in a system ideally suited to their unique IT and business needs.

But this approach has its trade-offs.

Integrating components from different vendors — across installation, tuning, testing, deployment and management activities — requires significant effort, consumes time and resources and carries a high risk of costly errors. And there's no guarantee everything will work well together — especially as the various components follow different release cycles or become obsolete or unsupported.

With products from such a wide array of suppliers, staff may only have expertise in specific parts of the environment. And only some, if any, will understand it all.

With so many vendors in the mix, isolating a problem's root cause will inevitably devolve into blame and finger-pointing — all while the issue sits unresolved.

Fortunately, there is an alternative to the complexities and headaches inherent in this multi-source model: the integrated stack.

The power of integration

In the integrated stack model, all hardware and software components are designed, developed, tested and packaged as a single unit. This happens before the system is shipped, and a single supplier manages everything.

This eliminates the need for costly, time-consuming, error-prone integration across the stack's components.

It takes the guesswork out of optimizing performance, availability, reliability and security.

With a single vendor to interact with, identifying, isolating and correcting a problem is much easier, as is updating the stack to incorporate new and enhanced software capabilities.

This integrated stack concept has long been at the core of Unisys ClearPath Forward systems.

As integrated hardware-software stacks, ClearPath Forward systems are designed to deliver robust, secure, highly available business-critical transaction processing — while providing the open attributes essential to participating in today's diverse computing environments.

With ClearPath Forward systems, you get it all in one place.

A look inside the stack

From hardware and operating system to management software, middleware and more, ClearPath Forward systems are complete — and completely integrated — packages.

All ClearPath Forward systems run on a common, industry-standard Intel® foundation for the stack's hardware portion. The environment is continually enhanced, and constantly evolving firmware resides within the hardware, providing the core of the system architecture.

The premier ClearPath® MCP and ClearPath OS 2200 operating environments comprise the software side of the stack — MCP for ClearPath Forward® Libra Systems and OS 2200 for ClearPath Forward® Dorado Systems. They include the full, integrated complement of software you need to run the most demanding applications.
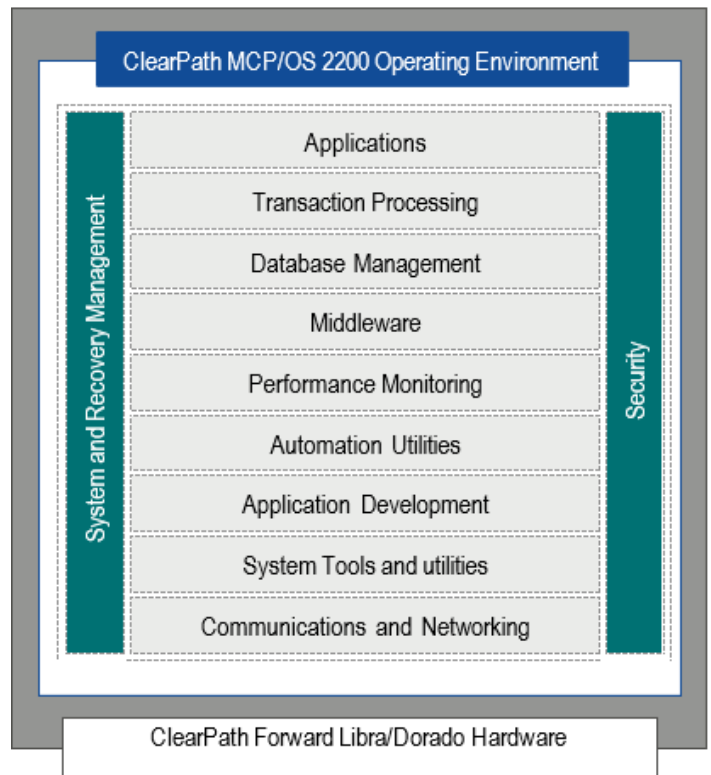
No matter the system, your applications are run by transaction managers and application servers designed especially for — and tightly integrated with — each environment, enabling them to manage exceedingly high transaction volumes easily. But they're just as adept at processing transactions from various sources, including mobile devices and distributed transactions in heterogeneous environments.

You can also deploy relational or hierarchical database management software directly within the stack. No matter which option you choose, you'll utilize mature, proven technology that's highly scalable and reliable — and primed to integrate with applications running in such external operating environments as Java®, Microsoft® Windows® UNIX® and Linux®.

A rich set of native, industry-standard middleware enables the environment to integrate with external applications and solutions. With our end-to-end systems management tools, you can monitor and manage every aspect of the environment along with the systems and applications it interacts with daily. Meanwhile, the application development tools in the stack generate code tailored specifically to the MCP and OS 2200 environments.

And, of course, proven ClearPath Forward security attributes pervade every aspect of the stack. With this comprehensive, built-in, multi-layered approach to security, you can safely run hundreds of applications in isolation — all within a single operating system instance. You'll protect against unauthorized data access and modification attempts. And you'll encrypt data both in motion and at rest, making detecting accidental or malicious actions easier.

This way, you'll be well equipped to safeguard the environment and all its critical processes from the negative financial, reputation and brand impacts of breaches and other incidents.

The ClearPath Forward integrated stack blends hardware and operating environment software in a single, complete package.

The MCP and OS 2200 operating environments are integrated software stacks, providing complete software suites for your business-critical applications.

The stack in the software series

While the integrated stack concept has been associated with hardware-based, on-site deployments for decades, we've taken great care to ensure this same approach can flourish in a software-defined world.

That's why we created the ClearPath Software Series.

With the Software Series, you'll be free to decouple the environment's software from the hardware to which it's traditionally tied. This way, you can implement the MCP or OS 2200 operating environments — and the wealth of components each contains — where and how you choose.

They can run on any suitably configured Intel hardware. Or you can deploy them on hypervisors such as VMware® or Microsoft Hyper-V®, enabling the operating environments to play a central role in cloud deployments.

No matter how or where you deploy the Software Series, you'll feel confident knowing the attributes that define the core of the integrated stack remain firmly in place.

As a result, you can maximize your investments in the ClearPath Forward environment. You'll become better equipped to answer changing demands efficiently, optimize your cost structures and increase flexibility, all while you evolve IT alongside the business.

Integration powers business value

Compared to an approach that requires you to review, select, integrate, test and manage components from multiple vendors, the advantages of an integrated stack become immediately apparent.

And nowhere is the integrated stack more perfected than in the ClearPath Forward environment.

Because we design, integrate, test and optimize all components — whether part of a hardware-based ClearPath Forward system or deployed in the Software Series — you won't have to worry about tuning performance, maximizing availability and bolstering security. Instead, you'll be able to focus more time on critical efforts that differentiate your business.

Likewise, you can upgrade to new hardware or implement a new operating system release without changing the underlying applications, reducing costs and the risk of significant operational disruption.

With an integrated hardware-software stack built to quickly incorporate and take advantage of emerging technologies, you'll reshape your business in new and innovative ways. Hence, it always stays a step ahead of the competition.

**To learn more about the power of the Unisys ClearPath integrated stack,
visit www.unisys.com/clearpath**

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