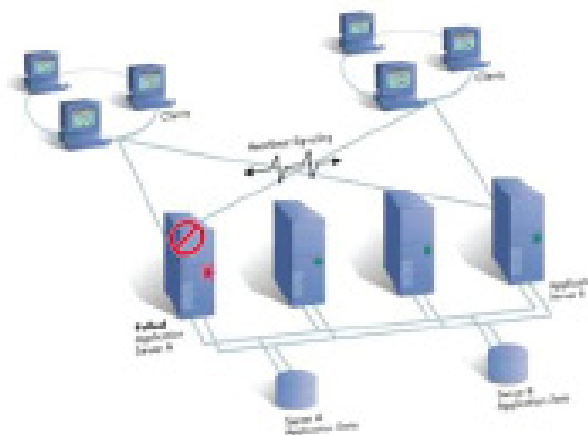


## DICE Corporation protects integrated security solutions with SIOS LifeKeeper for Linux®

Solution protects data aggregation, processing and transition inside Interregional Center for Informatization of the Central Bank of the Russian Federation

“Overall, the package was very appealing. What’s more, SIOS provided us with all the training and support we needed to transition from assuring high availability on Unix to doing it just as effectively for Linux.” -Steve Senk, Hardware Support Manager, DICE Corporation



DICE Corporation specializes in creating integrated solutions for the residential and commercial security industry. When an alarm goes off in someone’s home or business, a signal is immediately transferred to the operator at the central station operator of that person’s security company. The operator relays alarms and instructions to appropriate authorities, such as police and fire stations. Because many security companies run their own call centers and monitoring facilities, DICE provides a comprehensive range of capabilities needed by these security companies, which are integrated within a suite of software modules such as alarm monitoring, customer management, accounting and even sales management and fleet monitoring.

### The Challenge

In addition to creating software that is installed at its clients’ locations, DICE also uses a complete standby facility to provide clients with full failover capabilities for disaster recovery. DICE mirrors file systems and if a failure occurs at a client site, the client’s mirrored system is automatically mounted on a standby system, without interrupting work on the remaining standby system. DICE also provides full-time hosting for those providers that want to reduce their business overhead.

In doing so, it acts as an Application Service Provider, offering remote hosting of its software products, including its Central Station Automation, Backoffice Utilities, and Service Management, as well as its web-based \*eLink and Asset Tracking systems. In all cases, assuring high availability (HA) is absolutely critical to the health of DICE’s business and its clients’ businesses as well.

In 2006, Steve Senk, Hardware Support Manager and his team found that its core application ran more efficiently and at higher performance levels on Linux than SCO-Unix and made the decision to migrate toward Red Hat Linux. Their incumbent high availability solution, Sentinel, was not compatible with a Linux environment. Because its application was not based on open source language, Senk needed an HA provider that could not only operate on Linux, but that would work closely on a technical level with DICE to assure the implementation’s success.

### The Partnership

After a thorough review of solutions in the marketplace, Senk and his team downloaded and tested Lifekeeper for Linux. Immediately, they saw its promise and began implementation.

“It has a nice visual GUI, and a lot of similarities with the interface we were accustomed to with our previous HA solution – plus pricing was very comparable. Overall, the package was very appealing,” noted Senk. “What’s more, SIOS provided us with all the training and support we needed to transition from assuring high availability on Unix to doing it just as effectively for Linux.”

Senk’s team collaborated with one of their government customers to deploy Red Hat Linux and LifeKeeper for Linux. They completed the implementation within three days, immediately performed a failover test and found the system functioned without any problems.

The DICE team was able to migrate all of its applications and services to Linux with the assurance of high availability thanks to LifeKeeper for Linux and LifeKeeper Data Replication.

SIOS’ LifeKeeper for Linux is a software application that ensures all applications, data and system connectivity is sustained system uptime is maximized. LifeKeeper provides high availability of clustered Linux systems by monitoring system and application health, client connectivity and delivering uninterrupted data access regardless of where clients reside - on the corporate Internet, intranet or extranet. SIOS LifeKeeper data replication is an industry-proven solution on Windows and Linux that provides dynamic, disk-level replication of data across local and wide area networks.

“LifeKeeper integrated very well with our existing infrastructure and SIOS provided excellent technical support and the precise level of guidance needed to get things up and running as swiftly as possible,” noted Senk. “What’s more, with SIOS’ support, we’ve been able to continue to meet the quickly growing demand that we’ve experienced from our client base.”

## The Result

Since adding LifeKeeper support, hundreds of clients have signed on for DICE’s failover service, with over 50 installations in place within DICE’s facilities. DICE’s customers’ sites have required failover support for a variety of reasons since LifeKeeper was implemented. Each time, the software has helped DICE support seamless availability.

“The need for failovers has come as a result of a variety of situations, whether it’s a cleaning guy plugging something in and blowing a circuit, or a power surge from a storm,” said Senk. “Regardless of the cause, LifeKeeper is there for these problems, and we’ve had nothing but success.”

Looking ahead, DICE is planning to offer its clients a disaster recovery service leveraging LifeKeeper for Linux. Clients can use their own servers but replicate up to seven machines remotely, regardless of where in the world their servers are located.

## About SIOS

SIOS delivers innovative software solutions that provide application availability and disaster protection for Windows and Linux environments.

### Clusters Your Way.™

An essential ingredient in any cluster solution, SIOS SAN and #SANLess clustering software provides the flexibility to build clusters your way to protect your choice of Windows or Linux environment – and any configuration (or combination) of physical, virtual and cloud (public, private, and hybrid) storage – without sacrificing performance or availability. SIOS provides unique #SANLess clustering software that eliminates both the cost and the single-point-of-failure risk of traditional SAN-based cluster solutions.

Founded in 1999, SIOS Technology Corp., is headquartered in San Mateo, California, and has offices throughout the United States, United Kingdom, and Japan.

## About DICE Corporation

DICE Corporation specializes in creating integrated solutions for the residential and commercial security industry. Founded in 1983, DICE Corporation is privately held and operates worldwide. Its diverse employee base of 50 programmers, technicians, client care representatives, trainers, technical writers, sales people and other administrative personnel is headquartered in Bay City, Michigan.

