

# Sony Reduces Database Costs with MySQL

Sony International (Europe) GmbH in Stuttgart, Germany runs one of the most modern electronic measuring facilities in the world. In this laboratory, Sony tests all electronic entertainment devices in accordance with existing emissions regulations (e.g. CE Norm - The European Committee for Standardization). Any electronic product or device sold in the European Union (EU) countries must pass these tests and comply with these regulations.

Sony also tests products for other large electronic companies who need to ensure their products can be sold across all European Union countries. As a result, thousands of different electronic products including computers, TVs, VCRs, and stereos are tested annually.

Originally, the testing records were all paper-based, making it a very time-intensive to submit testing requests and look up certificates. To solve this problem, Sony created an extensive workorder system (FIS) built on the LAMP (Linux, Apache, MySQL, PHP/Perl/Python) stack which allows Sony employees, partners, and resellers to submit testing requests for particular products. The system also stores all testing results and the test certificates.



**SONY**

*"MySQL is high-performance and easy to use. It is simple enough for us to rapidly develop small projects and powerful enough to successfully implement large projects."*

**Michael Alvarez**

Senior Manager, IS Department  
Sony International (Europe) GmbH

## Reducing Complexity and Cost While Improving Reliability

After investigating Content Management Systems, Sony originally chose FileNet to solve their problem. However, FileNet did not satisfy Sony's requirements out of the box. FileNet had to be heavily customized using Microsoft SQL Server and Active Server Pages using external consulting resources. This additional effort took several man months, was costly and in the end it was too complicated and not reliable enough for Sony's designated purpose.

Furthermore, the FileNet licensing model turned out to be much more expensive than originally estimated.

Sony began to explore an alternative solution that would be more cost-effective. Since Sony had successfully implemented MySQL in other projects, they began rewriting the Content Management solution based on the LAMP stack. The new project using MySQL and PHP took a single developer only three months to complete!



Originally the content management system consisted of Windows applications running on Windows 2000 Server and one external website. Today the system is running on Debian GNU/Linux, in addition to an external website with search functionality that is used by partners. This external website enables resellers to verify if a particular product complies with the EU emission regulations so the products can be sold within EU countries. If products are not certified, partners are able to submit a testing request through the FIS system.

*"MySQL enabled us to implement the project in only three months without any problems. MySQL has proven itself to be exceptionally fast and reliable."*

**Michael Alvarez**

Senior Manager, IS Department  
Sony International (Europe) GmbH

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# Why Leading Organizations Are Running MySQL

Significant MySQL features that helped make the project successful include:

**Reliability** – MySQL is extremely stable and has resulted in FIS being continuously available for Sony employees, partners, and resellers.

**Price and Low Operating Cost**  
The implementation of MySQL has saved Sony International over 90% in licensing, maintenance and support costs associated with their initial Content Management Solution.

**Multi-Platform Availability**  
MySQL is a natural fit with PHP on both Windows and Linux. Sony was able to develop on Windows and deployed on Linux with ease.

**Ease of Use** – MySQL was easy to use and the application rewrite only took a single developer 3 months to complete.

**Full Text Search** – Makes accurate and intuitive search possible.

**Replication** – A replicated portion of the database is made available externally to partners and makes Hot-Standby possible.

**Excellent Support** – The MySQL support team was extremely responsive and knowledgeable.

Over the past few years, over 70,000 products have been tested by Sony for compliance with the EU limits on electronic and electro magnetic fields. All test results for product dates, as

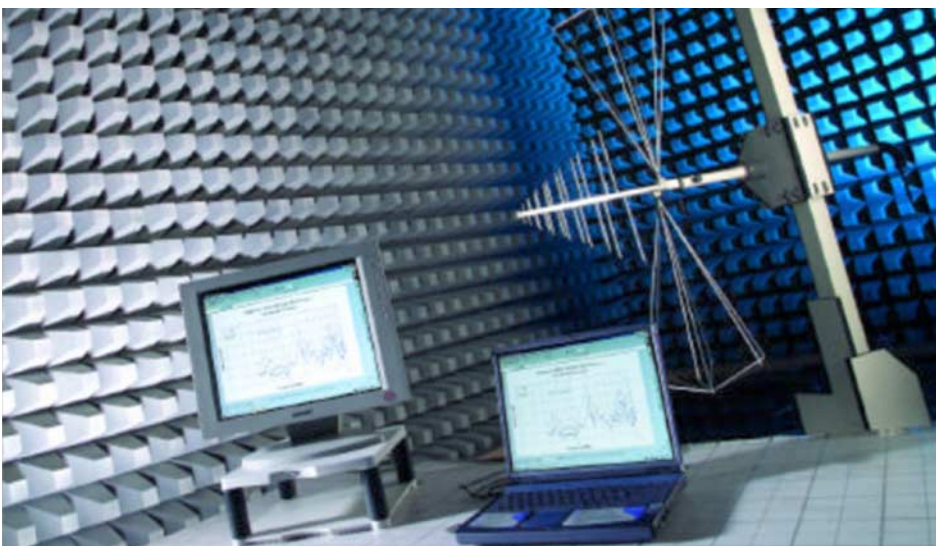
well as the test orders, test results, test certificates, and reports are stored in Sony's FIS system. Furthermore, Sony makes the test certificate database available to their external customers via an external website.

## MySQL Significantly Reduces the Database Costs

MySQL reduces the Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) of database software by:

- ◆ Reducing database licensing costs by over 90%
- ◆ Cutting systems downtime by 60%
- ◆ Lowering hardware expenditure by 70%
- ◆ Reducing administration, engineering and support costs by 50%

MySQL is known as an ideally suited database for Web applications. At Sony in Stuttgart, MySQL has proven itself, yet again, as a highly stable and reliable database for accessing large amounts of data in business critical environments.



## Technical Environment

<i>Hardware:</i>	Genesi Pegasos
<i>OS:</i>	Debian GNU/Linux
<i>CPU:</i>	PowerPC
<i>RAM:</i>	512 MB
<i>Database:</i>	MySQL Server
<i>Web Server:</i>	Apache
<i>Language:</i>	PHP, Visual Basic, C
<i>Database Size:</i>	◆ 1 Gb ◆ 70,000 records

## About MySQL

MySQL AB develops and markets a family of high performance, affordable database servers and tools. The company's flagship product is MySQL, the world's most popular open source database, with more than 5 million active installations. Many of the world's largest organizations, including Yahoo!, Sabre Holdings, Cox Communications, The Associated Press and NASA, are realizing significant cost savings by using MySQL to power Web sites, business-critical enterprise applications and packaged software. MySQL AB is a second generation open source company, with dual licensing that supports open source values and methodology in a profitable, sustainable business.

For more information about MySQL, please go to [www.mysql.com](http://www.mysql.com).



The World's Most Popular Open Source Database

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