Sweden's largest student database, Ladok, to be powered by MySQL Enterprise
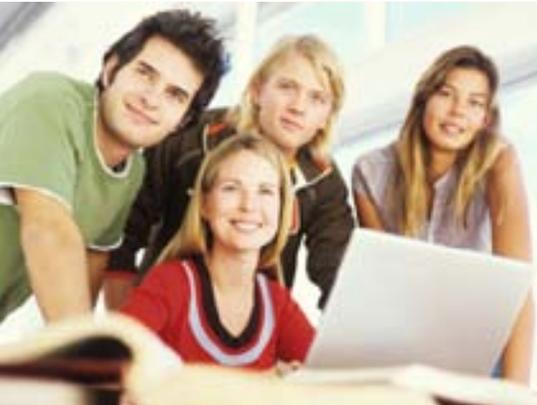
Education

OS: Red Hat Enterprise Linux 4

Language: Java, Uniface

Database: MySQL Enterprise

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Ali Foroutan-Rad
Head of the Ladok division, at Umeå University, Sweden

Ladok Overview

Ladok is the national system used for administration of higher education and documentation of academic information. The system is jointly owned by Swedish higher education institutions. Almost all institutions, 35 today, are part of the consortium together with the Swedish National Board of Student Aid. Ladok is also used for the institutions' reporting to external recipients of information, among others the Swedish National Board of Student Aid, Statistics Sweden, the Ministry of Education and Research and the Swedish National Agency for Higher Education. The system is mainly used for matriculation and registration of students and their academic results and degrees.

The aim is to facilitate and abridge the daily work of departments and administration, for local and central planning as well as following up academic results, and to ensure the legal security and rights for the individual student.

The Business Challenge

Five million people are registered in the Ladok system. University administrators as well as more than 350,000 active students use information from the Ladok-system on a regular basis in order to manage follow-up procedures follow academic results or look up grades.

The Ladok system, based on a large number of routines and functions, cannot suffer downtime. The enormous amount of information concerning academic results, registrations and documentation for almost every individual university student in Sweden is critical for the Swedish National Board of Student Aid, the statistical data of Statistics Sweden, and the Ministry of Education and Research. Its management is divided between three large data centers in Uppsala, Lund and Umeå.

For the past 20 years, the Ladok division's operations have been based on a proprietary database. The goal was to increase performance and availability while reducing costs.

The MySQL Solution

The Ladok system will now be fully migrated to and supported by MySQL Enterprise™. The transition takes place gradually throughout 2009 with five separate launches to the data centers' test environment. In November 2009 the migration to MySQL will be completed.

"Open source software and open development is appealing to universities, in addition to enabling a reduction in costs," said Ali Foroutan-Rad, Head of the Ladok division, at Umeå University, Sweden. "Our evaluations have shown that the functionality of MySQL is very good. In combination with the substantially lower costs of the software and support compared to proprietary databases, we were relatively confident to recommend our customers to take this major decision. MySQL Enterprise provides all the tools and services we need, including around-the-clock support," Ali Foroutan-Rad continued.

MySQL Enterprise is the basis of the Ladok installation and the common denominator for all products and technical solutions within the system.

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Ali Foroutan-Rad
Head of the Ladok-division

Architecture of the Ladok installation

STAM | External Authentication
Nouveau | Java Batch | T1 T2 | Ladok on Web | T1 T2 | LadokPing
Message Queue ← Ladok Connector — MySQL Enterprise → Tafla DB
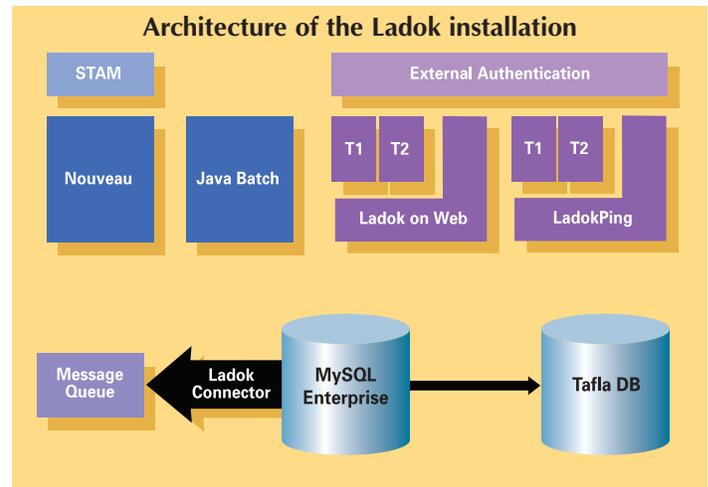
The Future with MySQL

By subscribing to Sun's MySQL Enterprise offering, the universities using Ladok will be able to control the performance and security of the entire database through the MySQL Enterprise Monitor, and help ensure high performance of the application thanks to MySQL Query Analyzer.

"Ladok has been powered by a proprietary database, Mimer, for 20 years," said Ali Foroutan-Rad. "By migrating to MySQL we will gain access to a larger supply of plug-ins, monitoring and query analyzing tools. A modern national IT-system requires a modern database management with high levels of reliability and performance."

MySQL Enterprise

Full Support & Less Risk for Your Production Database Applications

A MySQL Enterprise subscription includes the most comprehensive set of MySQL database software, services and support so your business achieves the highest levels of reliability, security and uptime.

Proactive database monitoring and advisory tools are available exclusively to MySQL Enterprise subscribers.

MySQL Enterprise includes:

- **MySQL Enterprise Server** – the most reliable, secure and up-to-date version of the world's most popular open source database

- **MySQL Enterprise Monitor** – GUI-based tools that continuously monitor your database and proactively advise you on how to implement MySQL best practices, including performance tips and security alerts

- **MySQL 24x7 Production Support** – with guaranteed response times to assist you in the development, deployment and management of your MySQL applications.

About MySQL

MySQL is the most popular open source database software in the world. Many of the world's largest and fastest- growing organizations use MySQL to save time and money powering their high-volume Web sites, critical business systems, and packaged software. At www.mysql.com, Sun provides corporate users with commercial subscriptions and services, and actively supports the large MySQL open source developer community.

For more information about MySQL, please go to **www.mysql.com/enterprise**

To contact MySQL online or via telephone, please go to **www.mysql.com/contact**

The World's Most Popular Open Source Database