

CLIFF BEACHAM

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IBM

April 1998 - Dec 1998 **IBM** Contract at Kaiser Permanente, Walnut Creek

Team Lead/Systems Test Engineer for a 3-tier application (Pegasystems). It was to be a 45,000 simultaneous user database of Kaiser Permanente's patient records running on a central data repository, accessed via 45 satellite servers, each handling 1000 connections. The project budget was \$1,000,000,000 (Yes, \$1billion) with 600 people employed on the project (it was placed on hiatus when Kaiser posted a huge loss for the quarter). The project would enable consulting between Doctors and other caregivers that would never know of each other's existence otherwise; a medical breakthrough.

Tests were conducted as Interactive Application Development Tests with Pegasystems Inc (the vendor). The load was run from Loadrunner (Mercury Interactive) with the objective of testing 1000 simultaneous connections. We ran 12 Compaq ProLiant 5000 satellite application servers running on Windows platform and central data repository (Oracle database) on AIX on an RS6000 server.

Memory leaks were detected in the application and

As team lead, my duties and responsibilities included:

- designing, planning and implemented diagnostic tests for the application,
- establishing independent audit validity tests, and
- prepared reports for submission to system architects and the vendor.

Note: There are 3 methods of load testing –

1. put the application into production and fix it when (not if) it breaks (this is the most common way)
2. line up 50 laptops, connect all of them and shout 1,2,3 - go
3. use an electronic load simulator (such as Loadrunner)