

# *Hughes Communications India Limited*

Synopsis: *A leading communications and networking provider in India gains a highly available, scalable application environment when it leverages IBM WebSphere Application Server Community Edition software to host its new attendance-tracking solution*

Location: Gurgaon  
Industry: Computer Services  
Telecommunications  
URL: <http://www.hughes-ecomm.com/>

## Customer Background:

Headquartered in Gurgaon, India, Hughes Communications India Limited (HCIL) is one of the country's leading communications and networking services companies. Working primarily with satellite technology, it offers a wide variety of Internet service provider (ISP) solutions and Internet Protocol (IP) services. As India's only manufacturer of VSAT (very small aperture terminal) satellite communication systems, HCIL operates 17 offices that support more than 20,000 VSATs across 632 locations in India.

HCIL's parent company, Hughes Network Systems, LLC, is the global leader in providing broadband satellite networks and services for large enterprises, governments, small businesses and consumers.

## Business Need:

The HughesNet Global Education platform is HCIL's premier training and secondary-education service, featuring 50 virtual classrooms in 34 cities in India. From 2004 through 2006, more than 4,750 students successfully completed an interactive program - which combines video, voice and data communications - on the system.

The HughesNet Global Education solution had been tracking each student's attendance via Arel software. The technology acknowledged students' attendance by recording when they logged in to the virtual classroom. But the Arel application accounted for only the login, so students would log in and then sign off, effectively skipping the virtual class. HCIL wanted to redefine the next generation of its HughesNet Global Education solution by integrating a new application that could accurately and automatically track the true attendance of students. Furthermore, it needed a stable, secure foundation on which to run the new tracking solution.

## Solution:

HCIL replaced its Arel software with a third-party vendor's Student Attendance Tracking System (SATS) and Studio Booking System (SBS) application modules, which the company launched on IBM WebSphere Application Server Community Edition V1 software. The new SATS program integrates well with the open-source-based WebSphere Application Server middleware, which runs on the Microsoft Windows 2000 operating system.

The WebSphere Application Server Community Edition platform is a lightweight Java Platform, Enterprise Edition (Java EE) application server that is available free of charge. Built on Apache Geronimo technology, it delivers an integrated, readily accessible and flexible foundation for deploying the application modules. By leveraging best-of-breed open-source applications, the WebSphere Application Server solution can seamlessly support HCIL's environment - which includes Microsoft MySQL and IBM DB2 data servers - without increasing the load on the client's

WebSphere clustering application.

Benefits of the Solution:

By implementing the WebSphere Application Server Community Edition platform, HCIL gained a highly available, scalable environment on which to run its new attendance-tracking solution.

Because it is free to download, the platform lowered rollout expenses for the project. In addition, the high-performance solution is easy to use and helps the company in its mission to redefine the next generation of education. And the IBM name instills confidence; in fact, HCIL is exploring the possibility of leveraging the IBM Lotus Sametime instant messaging solution to help it improve the quality of its real-time communication as well as lower its expenses.