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## A CIO changes his mind about Itanium

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What a difference two years can make. In Comdex 2001, Glenn Bonner, chief information officer at MGM Mirage, told reporters that he didn't see much of a market for Intel's Itanium chip, the company's 64-bit processor for running databases and other utility-computing applications.

Bonner, in fact, had just completed a project, under which he put the resort conglomerate's operations onto Intel 32-bit Xeon-powered servers. (Itanium and Xeon differ quite a bit architecturally, but from a practical level, the main difference is that Xeons can only pull data from 4GB of memory, while the Itanium servers can use an almost limitless amount of memory.)

This year at Comdex, Bonner said he had installed three Unisys ES 7000 Itanium-based servers to handle the resort conglomerate's Player's Club database, which contains data on thousands of frequent visitors.

As a side note, Bonner said he isn't a big fan of outsourcing functions, especially to overseas facilities, because they can be too difficult to manage. "If you can't do something (locally) with your existing systems, you should switch systems or unplug (them)," he said.

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