



“Hitachi Content Platform has helped us establish a robust and reliable data archiving platform, which perfectly meets our rigorous demands for data manageability and security.”

Agricultural Bank of China

Agricultural Bank of China (ABC)

INDUSTRY Banking and Finance

SOLUTIONS **File and Content Services**
Hardware — Hitachi Content Platform
Services — Provided by Beijing Northking Technology Company, Ltd.

Agricultural Bank of China Chooses Hitachi Content Platform to Archive, Secure and Support Data

First established as Agricultural Cooperative Bank in 1951, Agricultural Bank of China (ABC) has steadily evolved since the late 1970s from a state-owned specialized bank to a state-controlled commercial bank. In January 2009, the bank was restructured into a joint stock commercial bank. In the midst of these transitions, the bank was faced with the challenge of preserving its data over the long term. It turned to Hitachi Data Systems for the solution that would provide data-management strategy for the bank's continued success.

About ABC

In 2009, the Bank was ranked in 155th place in the Fortune Global 500, and No. 8 in The Banker's list of "Top 1000 World Banks" in terms of profits before tax in 2008. In that year, the Bank was also rated A1/Stable by Moody's.

Throughout 2009, ABC continued to enhance its operations by making further improvements to its corporate value, market competitiveness and risk control. By the end of 2009, its total assets were in excess of RMB8.8 trillion, total deposits reached almost RMB7.5 trillion, and the total amount of loans was in excess of RMB4.1 trillion. The bank's capital adequacy ratio and nonperforming loan ratio in 2009 stood at 10.07% and 2.91%, respectively, and it achieved a net profit for the year of RMB65 billion.

This financial success is a reflection of the bank's customer-oriented culture. ABC is driven by its core values of honesty and prudence and a business philosophy of "customers come first." ABC, at www.abchina.com, prides itself on providing customers with diverse, high quality and efficient financial services through its extensive urban, rural and electronic network.

ABC Chooses Hitachi Content Platform

Hitachi Data Systems is a long-term partner of ABC. In the past six years, Hitachi has helped equip the bank for business growth with advanced data system solutions and high performance storage platforms. In recognition of the quality and reliability of Hitachi products, the bank recently chose Hitachi Content Platform (HCP) to build a new archiving platform for long-term data preservation.

The Hitachi Data Systems vision would enhance the bank's management of its historical data by developing a series of storage, access and deletion strategies. It would also establish a dedicated data archiving and management system to preserve historical data more than five years old. To meet the complex demands of the financial services industry, it was vital that this new system not only meet all compliance requirements, but also align with the bank's business needs and its data management policies.

Ultimately, this new project needed to establish an integrated management system that could handle and manage ABC's dramatic increase of production and historical data. It would also need to improve its data processing by implementing a single, highly effective data management platform. In so doing, the new system would reduce the pressure of managing exponential data growth, improve data usability, meet regulatory and legal compliance requirements, and provide a long-term data management strategy for the bank's continued success.

Highlights of the implemented system include:

- Seamless integration with tape backup storage systems, thus eliminating earlier problems from backup data replacing archived data
- Extensive long-term preservation of both production data and analytic data, which enables raw data to be protected from tampering



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- Comprehensive functionality, such as data search and inquiry for historical information, which equips the bank with a simple and convenient platform for leveraging the power of historical data

HCP Meets Audit Requirements

In addition to its excellent price-to-performance ratio, HCP provides the stability, reliability and transparency the bank needs to meet its audit requirements, which include:

- **Stringent audit requirements (Sarbanes-Oxley Act):** To meet the requirements for a dedicated archiving system, all data is encrypted during the archiving process without imposing on the front-end platform. The encryption methods used for this include MD5, SHA-1, SHA-256, SHA-384 and SHA-512. These methods not only ensure that data cannot be tampered with, but also enable the highest level of compliance with audit requirements.
- **Separate storage system:** The new storage system operates independently of the core banking system. As it only extracts data from the core banking system for storage, the operation of the bank's main system is not affected in any way. All data extraction and archiving takes place with full transparency.
- **Dynamic choice of protocols:** HCP supports a number of standard data transmission protocols, such as NFS, CIFS, HTTP and WEBDAV. This enables high compatibility with various software applications. In addition, users can manage data with full visibility, and all data structures and placements are transparent to users.

Major Benefits

- Low-maintenance system design only requires maintenance of the storage hardware.
- Independent storage system meets the majority of data archiving needs.
- System supports remote backup for same-vendor equipment.

About Beijing Northking Technology Company, Ltd.

Beijing Northking Technology Company, Ltd., was incorporated in 2000 with a registered capital of RMB51.9 million. Headquartered in Beijing, it has branch offices in cities across China, including Shanghai, Guangzhou, Chengdu, Nanjing, Wuhan, Shenyang, Fuzhou, Tianjin and Xiamen. It also has a business processing outsourcing (BPO) based in Miyun.

Northking has established a corporate culture that emphasizes dedication, professionalism and expertise. Its core business includes providing software development, IT infrastructure operational and maintenance services, system integration, and BPO services to clients in China's banking and financial fields. Years of dedicated research and development now enable Northking to offer its clients a wide range of software products and solutions, including flow banking, content management, risk management, enterprise resource processing, implementation, business intelligence and corporate application integration. The company has operations in 30 of China's provinces, cities or autonomous regions, serving more than 500 banks and financial institutions at municipal-level or above. With its own post-doctoral research projects, Northking is a centre of corporate technology in Beijing.

For many years, the company has positioned itself in the market as a pioneer, providing leading-edge IT technology for the banking and financial community. In terms of proprietary software products, Northking owns 52 intellectual properties and has three patents registered in China. Its products have won a number of awards and honors, including Important New National Product, State Torch Project, State Electronic IT Development Fund Project, and Beijing Technology Market Golden Bridge Award.

Visit www.northking.net for more information.

- Simple design of the system architecture reduces the chances of system failure.

Building on the success of this project, ABC is now considering the implementation of a remote data protection system with HCP.

Why Hitachi Data Systems?

ABC's new system was developed on a bundled storage solution jointly offered by Hitachi Data Systems and Beijing Northking Technology Company, Ltd. The system's major functional modules include the storage and retrieval of extracted data, as well as a search module for archived data.

From the very beginning, Hitachi Data Systems was engaged in detailed discussions regarding every aspect of this project. Indeed, based on its technical skill and wide-ranging expertise, Hitachi was able to assure ABC that its products and solutions could

meet all the bank's requirements, including transparent system architecture, robust data encryption and protection, and dynamic storage scalability.

Like Hitachi Data Systems, Beijing Northking Technology Company, Ltd., is a long-term software development partner of ABC. It has solid experience and a strong technological background in data preservation, and in audit and inquiry of historical data.

Fast Implementation

The implementation of Hitachi Content Platform at ABC was a simple, hassle-free experience. It only took two weeks to complete the installation and fine-tuning of the new HCP. The system was fully rolled out just six months after comprehensive software development and testing.

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