“Cloud storage platform from Hitachi Data Systems is a mature solution, which has been proven in our France headquarters. This solution can meet the business growth demand of Aiqi in future years, in terms of the storage performance and support for various data types, storage scalability and reliability.”

Lin Ainan
IT Director
Aiqi Information Technology (Shanghai) Co., Ltd.

Aiqi Information Technology (Shanghai) Co., Ltd.

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Aiqi Supports High Performance and Massive Data Stores with Cloud Storage Platform from Hitachi Data Systems

Founded in 2006, Aiqi Information Technology (Shanghai) Co., Ltd., (Aiqi) is an Internet service provider that is 100% owned by Euro Asian Equities (EAE). To provide high performance and capacity, Aiqi’s IT department chose to build a cloud storage service platform that would provide storage service for small and medium enterprises (SME) based on France Telecom, especially French-funded enterprises, to enable them to use these resources at lower cost. Hitachi Data Systems supported Aiqi’s vision with a cloud storage solution built on Hitachi Adaptable Modular Storage and Hitachi NAS Platform.

Aiqi’s parent company, EAE, is a well-known market leader in the Internet information service industry in France and maintains close partnership with France Telecom. The revenue of the group is over EUR 11 million.

Aiqi Information has become a leading Internet services provider in China. It provides Internet information management, hosting, website design and building services for the China market.

Aiqi Sets Project Requirements

Aiqi’s IT department determined that its new cloud storage service platform should provide the following features:

- Support for massive data. Currently, Internet data volume is increasing exponentially, so the platform built for Aiqi would require sufficient capacity to adapt to the data growth. In addition, the storage system would need to be highly scalable to provide seamless online capacity expansion as the data grows.
- Support for various types of data. For Aiqi’s SME customers, who have various types of data, including database applications and file applications, the company would require a cloud storage service platform that supports a variety of storage spaces, including the storage space for fiber protocol as well as file protocol.
- High performance. For Aiqi, one of the important indicators of the quality of service (QoS) is providing the customer with high access speed. The company is most concerned with response speed and performance of the storage system. Aiqi’s IT department determined that for service hosting, the bottleneck of service speed is no longer network bandwidth, but rather the storage system. Hence, they would require performance of the storage system to be improved to increase overall access speed.
- High availability. Aiqi’s cloud storage platform would store critical data within the enterprise, so it would be important for Aiqi to make the data always secure and available. The storage platform would be required to have no single point of failure, and to ensure the system would be online 24/7.

HDS Solution Meets Aiqi’s Challenges

Based on the above demands and the business growth expected for Aiqi in the next 3 years, Hitachi Data Systems provided Aiqi with a SAN and NAS solution. Key elements included Hitachi Adaptable Modular Storage (AMS) 2100 and Hitachi NAS Platform (HNAS) 3080, powered by BlueArc®. In this solution, SAN and NAS were provided as an integrated platform with the capability to scale out in terms of the capacity and performance. The solution topology is shown in Figure 1.

The HDS solution used a separate SAN and NAS design, so SAN and NAS performance and capacity could be scaled linearly to meet the business growth requirements of Aiqi in the years to come.
HDS Solution Benefits for Aiqi

- **Advanced architecture.** SAN and NAS are provided as an integrated platform with structured and unstructured data being stored on a unified platform. This completely eliminates the performance bottleneck commonly found in other SAN and NAS solutions.

- **Performance.** HNAS 3080 for NAS service and AMS 2100 for SAN service provide powerful access and processing performance in terms of NAS and SAN, respectively. HNAS 3080 ensures that NAS hardware architecture provides the best access performance and processing power. HNAS achieves this by improving the supporting capability with multiple field programmable gate arrays (FPGAs) based internal hardware structure and clustered expansion nodes. AMS 2100 employs an industry-leading, active-active controller architecture. The service can access the storage resource through 2 controllers to improve concurrent access efficiency.

- **System scalability.** Because the HDS solution uses a separated SAN and NAS design, SAN and NAS performance and capacity can be scaled linearly to meet the business growth requirements of Aiqi in the years to come.

- **High reliability.** Both AMS 2100 as the SAN storage device and HNAS 3080 as the NAS controller were designed with strict security and reliability. Thanks to this redundancy, the devices can deliver high reliability to the customer.

Aiqi Confirms HDS Was a Good Choice

In this project, Aiqi worked with Hitachi Data Systems to build a powerful cloud storage service platform. During the communication process of this project, HDS provided pertinent advice to Aiqi based on its storage solution expertise and outstanding products.

By consulting Ecritel, its partner in France, Aiqi learned that Ecritel had implemented similar solutions and approved its performance and stability. In addition, during the project implementation, professionalism of HDS after-sales service personnel was also highly regarded by Aiqi IT. After this project was implemented, Aiqi IT was very satisfied with HDS solution.