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*Venkat Krishnan
Senior Vice President, Head of Strategic
Projects, Data Center, Network Infrastructure,
PMO and Technology Management Group*

Dhanlaxmi Bank Ltd.

INDUSTRY Banking and Finance

SOLUTIONS Enterprise Platform, Storage Management
Hardware — Hitachi Universal Storage Platform® VM



Dhanlaxmi Bank Bases Futureproof Storage Strategy on Hitachi Enterprise Storage and Virtualization

Dhanlaxmi Bank, Ltd., one of the fastest-growing private banks in India, opted to move all of its non-core banking applications to Hitachi Universal Storage Platform® VM as part of its long-term storage strategy. This has enabled the bank to adopt virtualization and reuse old storage boxes more effectively, while creating the base infrastructure to enable a future move into a 3-way disaster recovery solution.

Dhanlaxmi Bank, a private bank that was established in 1927, has 275 branches across India as well as 456 ATMs. The bank serviced business worth Rs 21,595 crore as of March 31, 2011. It is headquartered in Thrissur, Kerala.

Dhanlaxmi Bank has a long-term vision with respect to its technology usage. It has been an avid user of information technology to enable speedier delivery of services to its customers and has been consistently investing in implementing hardware and software solutions over the years.

However, some of the hardware, such as the storage boxes, was becoming old or defunct. The bank was exploring how it

could futureproof its storage because it realized that a strong storage backbone was a key requirement for all the other IT implementations as well. The bank also wanted data archival, backup and other storage streamlining activities.

"We had 2 options in front of us. One option was to work out a 'buy back' deal of the storage boxes with the original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), but this was not a good option as we had already invested in boxes. The other option was to explore virtualization, as we did not want to compromise on performance," says Senior Vice President, Head of Strategic Projects, Data Center, Network Infrastructure, PMO

and Technology Management Group at Dhanlaxmi Bank, Venkat Krishnan.

Hitachi Data Systems: A Good Reputation in Banking

According to Krishnan, the choice to work with Hitachi Data Systems was a fairly simple one given that the banking industry has already seen many successful Hitachi storage implementations. "Hitachi was an obvious choice with respect to performance. The industry feedback with respect to implementation was also good," says Krishnan. The Hitachi team created a proof of concept for the bank's special storage requirements, which was well appreciated by the bank's management.

The bank chose Hitachi Universal Storage Platform VM (USP VM) and decided to adopt a virtualization strategy. It decided to move all its non-core banking applications to the USP VM. These included the FinOne (the core lending system), loan processing, check truncation systems and the collaboration suite running on the intranet. Oracle GL, the core finance system as well its database were also moved to the USP VM.



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Implementation Support

“The implementation was smooth. The entire process of moving all the applications to the USP VM took about 3 months,” says Krishnan. “One of the key things I want to emphasize is the support given by the Hitachi team. They educated us about unleashing the real potential of the platform by handholding us through the implementation.”

With the platform in place, the bank is now exploring the deployment of a 3-way disaster recovery setup.

Benefits

Says Krishnan, “The USP VM has helped us adopt virtualization; now all our non-applications, barring the core banking solution, run on it. Not only is it easier for us to virtualize storage, it has also created the setup for us to plan a 3-way disaster recovery mechanism.”

Reuse existing boxes: With the USP VM in place, the bank can extend the life of its legacy boxes by virtualizing them. This ensures that the investments made by the bank in these storage boxes do not go waste. Also the bank does not need to go for expensive upgrades to replace legacy storage boxes.

Scalability: The bank is futureproofed, with the USP VM delivering all the scalability required. As the bank’s storage needs grow, more storage can easily get added to the system. Management of the new storage will continue to be simple as well.

Better utilization of capacity: With dynamic provisioning enabled under USP VM, Dhanlaxmi Bank can use the storage capacity more efficiently. Storage can easily be provisioned where it’s needed, instantly.

Disaster recovery base creation: With a virtualized, easy-to-manage platform in place, the bank can replicate it across its data centers, thus enabling a smooth and efficient move to a more robust disaster recovery system.

Better return on investment: Thanks to the Hitachi team’s handholding, the bank’s team is now well equipped to exploit features of USP VM to their full potential; thus, they get a better return on investment from the platform.



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