Feedback from users has been very good regarding Hitachi Virtual Storage Platform performance and capabilities.

Damir Baronica
Director of System Support Department
Information Technology Division
HPB — Hrvatska poštanska banka

HPB Achieves Performance Improvements, Reliability, Risk Mitigation and Cost Reduction With Hitachi Virtual Storage Platform

Hrvatska poštanska banka (HPB) was founded in October 1991 as a universal banking organization. It is the largest Croatian-owned bank and also the 7th largest bank in Croatia. The bank’s business strategy focuses on intense development of its retail network and new distribution channels. The aim is to improve the bank’s position in small and medium-size enterprise segments, and develop its product range and personal banking services for the general public. To meet these goals, HPB turned to Hitachi storage technologies.

The Fight for Efficient Data Processing

Constant growth of HPB’s business data caused the bank’s legacy storage system to become too slow for daily batch operations. To solve these data challenges, the bank first spent more than a year gathering information about storage technologies that can fit HPB’s requirements in processing data in a new, efficient way. The bank’s main goals were to be highly efficient and the most easily accessible bank in Croatia. Challenges included solving storage performance problems for the most critical core banking applications, replicating data to the disaster recovery center, reducing costs, and improving performance and features of the central backup system.

Requirements for Big Data Processing

HPB expected standard features that are delivered in enterprise-class storage systems by most leading vendors, but also looked for further capabilities to gain:

- Licenses and support for additional technologies, such as asynchronous replication (at 300 km distance, with the possibility of accumulating changes to 1TB of data replication and extension in the event of disruption of connections).

Hrvatska poštanska banka

INDUSTRY
Banking and Finance

SOLUTIONS
Enterprise Platform, Business Continuity

HARDWARE
Hitachi Virtual Storage Platform

SOFTWARE
Hitachi In-System Replication software bundle, Hitachi Dynamic Tiering, Hitachi Disaster Recovery, Hitachi Tuning Manager, Hitachi Data Protection Suite

SERVICES
Provided by Hitachi TrueNorth Channel Gold Partner Computech
The possibility of making a minimum of 3 copies of the original data on local disks (clone, mirror and copy).

The option to create snapshot copies (point-in-time copies).

Automatic dynamic tiering.

Multipath and load balancing support (if not already supported by operating system) for different operating systems (HP-UX, Red Hat, Microsoft® Windows®, IBM® AIX®, Oracle Solaris and VMware).

System reconfiguration (definition, formatting and presenting logical unit numbers or LUNs to servers) independent of the storage vendor support, including all the necessary tools for configuration, monitoring, management of the system and optimizing performance.

Support for deduplication technology, thin provisioning, encryption of data on disks, iSCSI support and the possibility of logical partitioning.

To become ready for big data processing challenges, HPB wanted to ensure they would have these leading technology features on their new storage and backup systems.

**Hitachi Virtual Storage Platform: Solution for Critical Business Services**

Hitachi Virtual Storage Platform (VSP) was chosen in a tight race among products from 5 vendors, through a bidding process. The Hitachi storage system showed the most acceptable total cost of ownership. At the same time, it fulfilled all the bank’s technical requirements and provided even more features than initially required. Savings were accomplished during procurement, as well as in maintenance costs. HPB also experienced better performance and backup system improvements that led to productivity improvements.

HPB’s IT environment included Finacle Core Banking solution from Infosys on Hewlett-Packard mission-critical servers with HP-UX operating systems. This multilayer technology used IBM® WebSphere® Web and applications servers, Infosys Finacle midtier services, and Oracle Database at the back end. The legacy storage system was HP XP10000 System with HP Data Protector as the backup system.

HPB now uses VSP for storage consolidation with multilayering for the bank’s critical business services. These services include the core banking system, VMware virtualization infrastructure, Oracle databases, Microsoft SQL Server® databases, centralized network file system (NFS) storage pool, and others that require shared storage access.

After bank’s decision to choose Hitachi Virtual Storage Platform the local Hitachi partner Computech was contracted to deliver, install, configure and migrate data from legacy storage to the new storage system using appropriate technology features. Computech is one of the leading Croatian IT system integrators in consolidated storage with multilayering. By integrating knowledge and skills of the bank’s IT forces and Computech support, the migration proceeded smoothly with minimal production interrupts.

Hitachi Virtual Storage Platform was delivered in to HPB at the end of February 2012, and full migration was ended in middle of May. The short process easily met the bank’s plan to migrate to new systems within 90 days after delivery.

**Acceleration of Daily Batch Operations: Shortened by More Than 25%**

While HPB worked to improve storage and backup performance, another goal was also to improve data replication. The bank opted to use Hitachi Data Protection Suite (HDPS) backup software with deduplication to the disaster recovery site. The main target was to speed up daily batch operations of the core banking system during regular infrastructure upgrade. After the procurement process and successful migration of data to the new VSP, daily batch operations were shortened by more than 25%. This reduction gives the bank the opportunity to introduce new services and accommodate the data growth according to the HPB’s needs.

“Hitachi was chosen because the bank has recognized that reliability, scalability, TCO, ability to leverage existing legacy technology, and other requested features were best fitted with the solution offered by Hitachi solutions together with local Croatian partner Computech.”

Marijan Žužić
Assistant Manager
Information Technology Division
HPB — Hrvatska poštanska banka
Feedback From Users: Excellent

All the critical bank applications are hosted on Hitachi Virtual Storage Platform, which means that all the business users are using the storage. On the technical side, HPB has storage and backup administrators managing Hitachi storage and backup systems remotely and from data center. They are very proficient and use most of the technical features. Feedback from users has been very good regarding system performance and capabilities.

Today, HPB is interested in expanding its existing HDPS backup solution with Hitachi archiving solution for big data.