itSoft Taps Hitachi Server and Storage Reliability to Support Stellar Cloud

For over 15 years, itSoft has provided IT services, including system integration, IT security, outsourcing and cloud services. Hosted in the leading national data center, DataCross, itSoft offers flexible and scalable services. To meet its customers' required service level agreements (SLAs), itSoft needed exceptional storage reliability and performance. Hitachi Compute Blade (CB) 500 and Hitachi Unified Storage (HUS) 130 answered the challenge.

The Challenge: Employ Reliability, Performance and LPAR in Support of Cloud Services

itSoft is an IT service provider in the process of building up its cloud and managed services offering. The company needed a platform for virtualization and dedicated hosting, plus easy management and high performance, along with an LPAR solution to help itSoft achieve market differentiation.

At that time, itSoft was still working on automatic provisioning of resources, storage and servers. The company used a custom or 3rd-party user portal and integrated with storage and server management. The reliability, total cost of ownership (TCO), performance and LPAR were the most important attributes to itSoft in finding the right storage and server solution.

The Solution: Hitachi Technology Optimized for High Performance

Before implementing the HDS solution, itSoft had IBM® and Fujitsu servers and NetApp and Fujitsu storage, and was using VMware for its virtualization solution, Cisco for its network and Brocade for its SAN. There was no centralized management. On Hitachi Compute Blade server, Hitachi Virtualization Manager Navigator runs with Microsoft® and Linux applications. Business applications vary depending on the needs of each specific customer or user of itSoft Cloud.

Benefits at a Glance

- Higher performance.
- Improved quality of service.
- Enhanced business agility.
SUCCESS STORY

itSoft evaluated various other vendors in its search for a solution and selected HDS. What made the difference? Much better TCO with unified management, technology optimized for high performance and Virtualization Manager Navigator or LPAR on Intel servers. Other benefits included higher performance for virtualized servers and symmetric active-active storage with load balancing.

The HDS solution consists of 2 HUS 130 systems, 2 Brocade SAN switches and 4 CB 500 blade chassis with 8 servers each. Complete installation took only 6 weeks, including installation, design adjustment, configuration and testing. In addition, LPAR was new technology that had specific network requirements, so Hitachi had to adjust planned design within the time period. However, all in all it was a very easy and very fast process.

**Benefits: Excellent Performance Boosts Cloud Services**

itSoft went through a cost-justification process to quantify its decision to use Hitachi technologies. Favorable return on investment was no doubt a large factor in the decision. Virtualization was another plus for the Hitachi solution, which presented fast storage and wide striping through Hitachi Dynamic Provisioning.

Since implementing the HDS solution itSoft has seen higher performance, which gave the company better quality of service. In turn, the performance has garnered positive feedback from its customers and their better acceptance of hosted and cloud services. One itSoft customer tested performance in LPAR and was very impressed with disk speed, with the high-speed configuration: LPAR with SAN boot and HUS 130, SAS 10k disk.

itSoft users access the system remotely through fiber optic links to the data center or through Internet, public IP address or virtual private networks. Its users are medium and large companies, and itSoft is also planning to extend its services with public cloud. ItSoft intends to upgrade capabilities when its customers require more resources; additionally, the company is interested in Hitachi Content Platform for archiving and for its cloud capabilities.

Hitachi Data Systems has increased quite few of itSoft’s strengths, improving IT service levels, application response time and business agility.
Innovation is the engine of change, and information is its fuel. Innovate intelligently to lead your market, grow your company, and change the world. Manage your information with Hitachi Data Systems.

itSoft Innovates With Information

- As a cloud service provider, itSoft strives to provide its customers with the most reliable platform for managing and storing any type of information. itSoft clients range from enterprise and financial institutions to educational and science organizations, to small and medium business. Some depend 100% on itSoft’s cloud infrastructure. Different information from different users have different market values, but for each of them their own information is essential for their survival in today’s economy. HDS solutions are helping them to use that information successfully.

- The Hitachi infrastructure for the itSoft Cloud allows the company to provide its customers with the option to forgo traditional on-site storage. itSoft Cloud allows customers to outsource the IT process and gain the advantages of flexibility, reliability, scalability, productivity and efficiency. Removing the storage responsibilities allows itSoft customers to focus on and innovate more with their core businesses.