“The Hitachi storage solution builds a unified storage platform to store both structured and unstructured data. The platform also helps stabilize the operations of the database system and guarantee the shared access to images and files. Additionally, it enables remote disaster recovery among storage systems.”

Jeff Wang
IT Manager
Mizuho Corporate Bank

Mizuho Corporate Bank

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Hitachi Data Systems Helps MHCB Build a Unified Storage Platform

Since it was founded in 2002, Mizuho Corporate Back (MHCB) has constantly grown its business internationally, and notably in China. This growth has made development of the bank’s information infrastructure increasingly important and prompted a thorough reconstruction of its data center. In this process, MHCB determined the need for a highly scalable unified storage platform, to store various structured and unstructured data. The bank recognized industry-leading capabilities in Hitachi storage and chose a Hitachi unified storage solution for its data center storage and disaster recovery project in 2012.

Solution: Structured and Unstructured Data on a Unified Platform

Based on the abovementioned requirements and a 3-year business development plan, Hitachi provided the solution. To meet business and unified management requirements and to build a unified storage platform that is centralized and easy to manage, the bank employs the enterprise-level Hitachi Virtual Storage Platform (VSP). Hitachi NAS Platform 3080 (HNAS 3080), powered by BlueArc®, is used as a gateway for unstructured data, to implement a unified storage platform. The remote disaster recovery center in Wuxi also uses a VSP as a storage system. Hitachi Universal Replicator (HUR) software builds a disaster recovery platform between the production center and the disaster recovery center, to ensure business continuity.

HNAS 3080 and VSP allow MHCB to store both structured and unstructured data at the production center on a unified platform. The solution also provides a VSP-based unified disaster recovery platform at the disaster recovery center, as shown in Figure 1.

Authorities Require Remote Disaster Recovery and Backup

The MHCB production center is located in Shanghai. Its business system is composed of IBM® pSeries® and X86 servers, and its storage adopts IBM DS4000®. In addition, some of its departments store their structured business data in NetApp storage. Presently, remote backup is unavailable for this data. According to China Banking Regulatory Commission (CBRC), foreign banks should set up a remote disaster recovery and backup center to handle Chinese currency (RMB) transactions. CBRC also specifies that foreign banks store both structured and unstructured data on a unified storage platform.

The unified storage platform delivered by Hitachi Data Systems provides an advanced infrastructure, which supports unified management and meets the demands of structured and unstructured data storage, as well as business development.
MHCB Reaps Benefits from Hitachi Solution

- **Unified storage and management** is established for all core data thanks to integration of VSP and HNAS 3080.
- **Storage for structured data**, such as database data, is provided by VSP.
- **Storage for unstructured data**, such as images and files, is provided by HNAS 3080 gateway.
- **Support for smooth expansion and upgrade** is ensured for the future. Efficiency, capacity and scalability of a unified storage platform can meet emerging banking industry requirements. The storage platform can add a local disaster recovery center freely during the system upgrade in the future. This capability allows MHCB to build a disaster recovery infrastructure for “3 centers in 2 locations.”

- **Disaster recovery** is enabled by the unified storage platform between the Shanghai production center and the remote disaster recovery center in Wuxi. The disaster recovery solution employs Hitachi Universal Replicator for asynchronous data replication between both VSPs. The storage pool, which is built by HNAS 3080 and VSP acts as a unified storage platform at the production center. VSP also acts as a unified storage platform in the disaster recovery center. The solution ensures that MHCB meets CBRC’s requirements for remote disaster recovery by maintaining its business continuity with high-level data protection.

- **Powerful accessibility and processing performance**, in terms of SAN and NAS, is provided by VSP and HNAS 3080, respectively.

- **Business continuity** is maintained by replicating structured and unstructured data at the remote disaster recovery center.

**Advanced Infrastructure and Unified Management Meet User Needs**

MHCB embarked on its storage infrastructure project to build a high-efficiency, highly scalable and reliable storage environment that can be expanded smoothly. The unified storage platform delivered by Hitachi Data Systems provides an advanced infrastructure, which supports a unified management and meets the demand of structured and unstructured data storage as well as business development. The HDS solution integrates unified storage with file management to meet all end user needs, and provide a long-lasting storage and disaster recovery platform.