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*Henrik Olsson
IT Operations Manager
Secode*

SECODE
An NTT Communications Group Company

Secode

INDUSTRY

Services: IT and Managed Security Services

SOLUTIONS

File and Content Services, Modular Platform

Hardware — Hitachi Adaptable Modular Storage 2100, Hitachi NAS Platform 3080, powered by BlueArc®

Software — Hitachi Dynamic Provisioning, Hitachi Device Manager

Services — Professional services provided by Hitachi Data Systems Global Solution Services

Secode Chooses Hitachi Technology to Manage Rapidly Growing Volumes of Mission-critical Data

Secode, the leading digital security company in the Nordics, offers 24/7 managed security services and security consulting. Secode's surveillance service intercepts all traffic to and from their customers' sites to detect potential threats. Analyzing these rapidly increasing data volumes in real time requires powerful and scalable storage solutions. To handle current and continued data growth, Secode carefully evaluated solutions and chose to replace legacy storage with a solution based on Hitachi Adaptable Modular Storage and Hitachi NAS Platform¹.

Data Volume Growth Adds Pressure to Data Center

Established in 1986, Secode AB is an independent subsidiary of NTT Communications. The company provides a broad range of global networks, management solutions and IT services to customers worldwide. Secode focuses on delivering advanced security services around the clock. This is a challenging task considering today's fast-changing threat environment and the constantly evolving nature of attack strategies.

Increasingly, companies and organizations are asking for IT security to provide effective protection for core business. To answer this challenge, Secode must manage a complex web of data and systems;

Secode must identify mission-critical applications that support core business processes, determine their risks and resolve how to mitigate those risks with effective security measures. A common security measure, surveillance, set up and hosted by Secode, analyzes data to and from mission-critical applications. The solution scans the data for threats such as malware and prevents unlawful access to the application.

To effectively process and analyze large volumes of data from different customers' IT environments, Secode requires reliable and highly scalable solutions. Reliability and scalability played an instrumental role when Secode decided to replace its

legacy storage solution. The new storage solution from Hitachi Data Systems stores and manages data for applications, processing more than 100GB of data per day. The storage solution is utilized in the company's surveillance service, used to inspect customer data and relied upon to give early warning signs of incoming threats or other irregularities.

Wanted: A Highly Scalable Solution

Demand for Secode's services is growing as pressure on IT departments to cut costs and provide protection for more complex environments is mounting. Secode is therefore adding new customers at a rapid pace; meanwhile their customers' overall data volumes are rapidly increasing.

"These 2 overlapping trends meant that we had to find a vendor that could deliver a reliable and highly scalable solution, which could easily be extended, in terms of performance and storage capacity, to meet current and future needs. The only vendor that really could deliver on this promise was Hitachi Data Systems," says IT Operations Manager at Secode Security Operation Center (SOC), Henrik Olsson.

Reliability and availability of the storage solution was instrumental for Secode, as its surveillance service cannot function without it. Therefore, it decided to ensure redundancy of storage systems by implementing 2 Hitachi NAS Platform 3080

¹Hitachi NAS Platform is powered by BlueArc®, which was recently acquired by Hitachi Data Systems.



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systems, which front the storage capacity. Each NAS Platform 3080 can scale to a capacity of 4PB and deliver a performance to 700MB/sec and 60,000 input/outputs per second (IOPS) per node².

Secode also chose Hitachi Adaptable Modular Storage (AMS) 2100, part of Hitachi Data Systems midrange storage solutions, which is capable of scaling storage capacity to 313TB, performance to 400K IOPS and connectivity to 1024 virtual server ports. The Hitachi Data Systems storage solution was deployed to manage and back up data from commercial and custom-made applications, running on a mix of virtualized and physical servers, and utilized in Secode's surveillance service.

Features include Hitachi Dynamic Provisioning functionality, which enables Secode to deploy thin provisioning of storage capacity. Thin provisioning optimizes use of available storage capacity by allocating blocks of data to servers and applications on demand. This means that storage capacity is never pre-allocated to servers, avoiding chunks of unused storage space.

"The volume of data analyzed varies over time and making sure that all data can be utilized by all servers gives us a much more economical and flexible resource utilization compared to having available space dedicated to certain applications and servers. This in turn translates into lower cost of

storage space and a more rugged solution overall," says Olsson.

Another important component of the solution is the dynamic load-balancing controllers in AMS, which automatically reduce bottlenecks in data streams to and from the storage solution. Furthermore, AMS supports efficient energy consumption, and its smart design (optional module High Density Storage Expansion Tray can hold up to 48 disks in 4U) contributes to lowering energy and facility costs.

Time to Market: A Few Weeks

The Hitachi Data Systems storage solution was implemented in just a matter of weeks. "The implementation phase was a fast and efficient process, thanks in no small part to the Hitachi Data Systems professional services arm that helped out onsite." Olsson comments. "We did not really run into any problems, and those challenges that we did encounter could be solved on our own or by harnessing 'best practices' offered by engineers from Hitachi Data Systems."

Since migrating to the Hitachi Data Systems solution Secode has experienced tangible results. "Our IT department now spends less time on maintenance and administration of the storage solution. Configuring and scaling of the storage systems has also been simplified and therefore saves additional IT resources. Load balancing and redundant features of the storage solution mean that we experience stable operations, with reduced risk of downtime," Olsson concludes.

²Based on SPECsfs_97 benchmark. Results are available at www.spec.org.



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