Hitachi Storage Solutions at Work

Spoleto Municipality

**INDUSTRY**  Government: Public Administration

**SOLUTIONS**  Consolidation and Virtualization: Optimization

**Hardware**  —  Hitachi Adaptable Modular Storage 200 in storage area network (with 10 host bus adapters and 2 Brocade® switches)

**Software**  —  Hitachi Resource Manager utility package

**Services**  —  Provided by Filippetti Consulting & Technologies and Hitachi Data Systems Global Solution Services

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Vincenzo Russo
Project Manager
Spoleto Municipality
Spoleto Municipality Reaches the Vanguard with Hitachi Technology-based Storage Virtualization Solution

As a historical site known across five continents for its famous “Two Worlds Festival,” Spoleto is one of the most precious towns of Italy. This small city is also at the cutting edge of information solutions that make the town council “machine” work, thanks to centralization of all the council computing systems in a unique server farm — a Hitachi storage-based solution that has been implemented by Filippetti Consulting & Technologies, a system integrator from Ancona.

Optimizing Documents

The objective of Spoleto Municipality was to arrange a distributed, slender, flexible and up-to-date information system that could reduce and optimize the paper document traffic among the different offices. “Before the fulfillment of this project, it took us a lot of time to distribute a circular among the council offices,” recalls Vincenzo Russo, project manager for Spoleto Municipality. “We had in fact to prepare the circular, print it and then have it signed by the interested employees. Now, thanks to the new solution, every council employee, from the usher to the office worker, has access to the electronic mail and the services on PCs from every point of the network, regardless of the carried out task.”

This project uses all of the latest technologies, combining storage solutions, server consolidation and desktop centralization, thanks to Hitachi modular solutions, which grant the maximum flexibility, even with the virtualization. “All the technologies implemented at Spoleto Municipality have a common denominator, constituted by centralization and virtualization,” Micol Filippetti, managing director at Filippetti Consulting & Technologies, explains. In practice, all the Spoleto Municipality computing systems have been centralized in a server farm and have been virtualized through dedicated software, leading all data and applications to be plugged into a secure, performing and convenient Hitachi storage infrastructure that, most importantly, can grow in a modular way, as requirements change.

Multiple Advantages

“Among their characteristics, Hitachi solutions have a very useful one that enables the optimization of resources of those companies and authorities that implement them, and that grants the maximum flexibility, since all Hitachi storage systems use the same technologies,” Filippetti stresses. “As requirements change, it is possible to substitute a low profile modular unit with a higher performing one, maybe one at an enterprise level. In the same way, Hitachi controller-based virtualization can easily take place, through unique centralized software.”

The Spoleto solution was set up and made operational in a very short time, enabling Spoleto to boost their productivity. The authority has an informatics network on a structure that involves about 250 employees and some external personnel. It uses the VMware virtualization solution and the thin computing solution from Wise Technology, all operating on Hitachi storage systems.

“This bounce for Spoleto Municipality has been really substantive,” Filippetti adds, “and one of the main reasons for this is that the chosen architecture made it necessary to adequately train the entire personnel.” For the municipality, this also dealt with considerably rejuvenating the filing system. “Nowadays,” Russo says, “we have removed those piles of
paper and ring binders that used to lie on the stairs. Moreover, we are gradually implementing a certified electronic mail system (PEC), that we would like to set as a standard for the official communication among municipality, province and region, while also eliminating paper and faxes.”

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Managing Director
Filippetti Consulting & Technologies

Future Developments

Another aspect that should be stressed is the security linked to the document management that Spoleto Municipality is implementing through its informative system. “Security is guaranteed by the digital signatures, but first of all it should be assimilated as a behavioural norm by the users. In any case, the municipality provided an accurate outline of the authorized users,” says Russo. Moreover, Spoleto is gradually implementing a complete document workflow management system that will enable authorized users to look through committee resolutions and public work procedures, as well as deliberative and managerial acts.

“For this implementation with the Spoleto Municipality all the most recent technologies have been used and have been installed, all together, in just one stage,” says Filippetti.

“This is a unique characteristic of this project, which links storage, server consolidation and desktop and applications’ centralization on the entire user group. It’s the first time that we set this kind of system, and we strongly believe that we will be able to present it to other local administration authorities that face similar problems.”