



Hitachi Storage Solutions at Work

CASDEN Banque Populaire

Industry

Finance: Banking and Financial Services

Solutions—

Business Continuity/Disaster Recovery/Tiered Storage

Hardware: Hitachi TagmaStore® Adaptable Modular Storage
model AMS500

Software: Hitachi TrueCopy™ Synchronous software

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—Jean-Claude Bouvry
IT Manager

Distributed Systems and Networks
CASDEN Banque Populaire



CASDEN Banks on Business Continuity with Hitachi TagmaStore® Adaptable Modular Storage

CASDEN Banque Populaire is the cooperative banking organization for teachers and other personnel of France's Ministries of National Education, Research, and Culture. When the bank needed to implement a unified business continuity plan to ensure the protection and accessibility of services for its members, Hitachi Data Systems recommended a high-performance, cost-effective Fibre Channel/SATA mix solution based on the Hitachi TagmaStore® Adaptable Modular Storage model AMS500.

One-stop banking means convenience, service, and security for millions of consumers the world over. Why shouldn't that same concept apply to the storage infrastructure that supports those banking transactions? For CASDEN Banque Populaire, ensuring a seamless service experience for its more than one million banking members means uninterrupted flow and access to the bank's data and applications. Created and managed by personnel of France's Ministries of National Education, Research, and Culture, CASDEN is a cooperative bank that works in partnership with other regional Banque Populaire banks owned by their member-stakeholders to provide a full range of financial services and products.

Challenged to Unify Business Data

CASDEN had steadily evolved its IT infrastructure to keep pace with the bank's data requirements. While this evolution allowed for periodic technology upgrades, it also created a disparate environment with business applications spread across three different operating systems. Shortly after an installation of new storage backup and archival software, CASDEN experienced a data recovery incident that required three

days to restore 800GB of business data. Another opportunity to advance existing storage, by virtualizing SATA drives, required the CASDEN IT department to conduct backup-to-disk processes only over weekends, to avoid disrupting availability of applications.

Without a unified or sustainable backup strategy, CASDEN was challenged to solidify the delivery or expansion of services and products for its members and partners. To protect its valuable data, the bank's next storage upgrade would need to focus on building business continuity and higher performance.

Required: Storage Performance and Continuity

Business continuity means addressing key business issues and data requirements with application-focused storage solutions that protect data from unintended loss and mitigate availability and retention issues. At CASDEN, technology choices are ascertained through a detailed analysis of those needs and an end-to-end decision-making process by the bank's Distributed Systems and Networks department. Led by Jean-Claude Bouvry, the department had several criteria for upgrading the IT infrastructure to accommodate the bank's storage goals.

As risks mounted for future outages or data loss, reliability of existing storage was a primary concern. Bouvry wanted to strengthen the network environment to ensure integrity and availability of the bank's information by deploying a redundancy solution, higher RAID levels, and online upgrades.

Performance was also suffering. Cost and complexity of data management and maintenance were on the rise, as was the time spent on backup tasks for the SATA-only configuration. Transitioning to a Fibre Channel/SATA protocol mix would economically help to boost performance. And to simplify administration and improve productivity, the CASDEN team would require a new storage system to help centralize and manage storage tasks with functionality such as virtual port hosting and nondisruptive data replication.

While evaluating potential storage infrastructure options from EMC, Sun (StorageTek), and Compaq for the new network, Bouvry contacted CASDEN's long-time equipment distributor fdp SOLUTIONS for possible recommendations. The answer he received was three words: Hitachi Data Systems.

"Hitachi Data Systems came very highly recommended for the quality, affordability, and the sheer power of its modular storage systems," says Bouvry. "CASDEN's end-to-end analysis quickly resulted in the selection of the Hitachi TagmaStore Adaptable Modular Storage."

Solution: Hitachi Modular Storage

CASDEN installed two units of Adaptable Modular Storage model AMS500 and was able to continue production on the same day, as well as begin a more efficient data protection process. Designed to provide enterprise levels of scalability, availability, and performance from a small, modular footprint and a single graphical user interface (GUI)-based management interface, the AMS500 models quickly heightened the bank's storage flexibility and continuity.

Because Adaptable Modular Storage supports three tiers in a single system, the bank has the choice of SATA and Fibre Channel disks to flexibly match application performance to the cost of storage. CASDEN currently has 8TB of storage capacity assigned to the AMS500 and plenty of room to grow with the system's more than 100TB of SATA intermix internal raw capacity.

Using virtualized Hitachi connectivity, Bouvry has already attached nine host ports to the AMS500 and has plenty of room to grow with up to 128 Fibre Channel hosts supported per port on the AMS500. CASDEN was able to gain immediate scalability of host connections and safe multitenancy for disparate applications. Virtual ports help simplify the assignment of physical storage ports so they can be better utilized both in the present architecture as well as in future Fibre Channel Gbit/sec speeds.



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Reliability is a key component of business continuity and CASDEN is off to an excellent start. Because the AMS500 offers dual controllers and RAID-6 disk configurations, the bank now has no single point of failure for data loss and greatly improved availability.

To help meet the bank's ambition for robust business continuity, Hitachi TrueCopy™ Synchronous software supplies synchronous remote replication, disaster recovery testing, and continuously available online data copies. By providing this uninterrupted

support, TrueCopy software meets CASDEN's requirements for remote backup, rapid disaster recovery, data warehousing, mining, and migration. CASDEN now has centralized host-independent and automated data mirroring for its IBM® AIX,® UNIX, and Microsoft Windows environments over any distance.

As a result, CASDEN will be able to significantly reduce recovery times, minimize operational disruptions, and augment its business resilience.

Improved Storage Performance and Continuity Benefits

CASDEN has swiftly improved the processes, performance, and continuity of its mission-critical information, with implementation of Hitachi modular storage systems and software. In the

short time since installation, the bank has seen an 83 percent reduction of backup windows, as well as a reduction in the cataloging of backup data from 2 hours and 15 minutes to now only 45 minutes.

The introduction of Fibre Channel has enabled the bank to increase its flexibility, access, and reliability in terms of how and where data is stored. Applications are matched to performance levels best suited for storage requirements. Now CASDEN can cost-effectively archive the data it needs to preserve, but not readily

access, onto a SATA tier, while ushering information with greater availability needs to mid- and high-performing Fibre Channel tiers.

"With little effort and many benefits, CASDEN overhauled the productivity and reliability of the bank's vital data without the expense or headache of overhauling the entire IT infrastructure. This would not have been possible without Hitachi Data Systems," says Bouvry.

About fdp SOLUTIONS

fdp SOLUTIONS is a high-tech service company that consults with customers on implementing new information architectures. fdp SOLUTIONS provides business management with data availability and centralized administration solutions and delivers sure and fast solutions for the supply of semiconductors and electronic components. fdp SOLUTIONS clientele includes those in financial, telecom, and distribution industries. For more information, please visit <http://www.fdp-solutions.com>

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