“Since the deployment of Hitachi solutions, we have been able to significantly improve our recovery time objective and recovery point objective.”

S Kumar
Head of Data Center
Corporation Bank

Corporation Bank

INDUSTRY  Banking

SOLUTIONS  Business Continuity, Enterprise Platform, Virtualization

Hardware  — Hitachi Universal Storage Platform® V (3) (purchased under the Sun Microsystems rebrand of Sun StorEdge 9990 V)

Software  — Hitachi Universal Replicator, Hitachi Basic Operating System V, Hitachi Replication Manager, Hitachi TrueCopy® Synchronous and Hitachi ShadowImage® Heterogeneous Replication software
Corporation Bank Moves Toward Zero Data Loss with Hitachi Enterprise Storage

Corporation Bank is a leading Indian public sector bank. The bank wanted a storage solution that would ensure efficient, timely and accurate data replication among its three data centers: the main one in Bangalore, the nearline one 30km away and its disaster recovery center 350km away. The bank opted for a Hitachi Universal Storage Platform® V at each of the centers, and now experiences real time synchronization of data.

Corporation Bank is a leading public sector bank with more than 1,000 operating units in the country and a business volume of well over Rs 1,30,000 crore or 26 billion USD. The bank has a pan-India presence with a strong, technology backed business environment that sets all its functional units under the centralized Core Banking Solution (CBS), based on COBOL.

In today’s competitive business environment, there is no room for latency and data losses. CBS is a critical wide area network (WAN) dependent application on which the entire bank’s business interest and reputation rests. The bank wanted a solution that would ensure efficient, timely and accurate data replication among its data center locations, which include its main data center in Bangalore, its nearline data center 30km away on managed fiber from Bangalore and its disaster recovery center in Mangalore, 350km away. Corporation Bank’s General Manager, BR Bhat explains, “We wanted enterprise class functionality and data availability. This resonates with our corporate mission of meeting customer expectations through innovation and technology.”

The Proven and Resilient Storage Choice

The bank considered a number of vendors, but the solution offered by Hitachi Data Systems, a proven and resilient option, was one of the natural choices. Three Hitachi Universal Storage Platform V systems were purchased through Sun Microsystems/Wipro (under the rebrand of Sun StorEdge 9990 V). Since 2009, the bank has been using the Universal Storage Platform V with the asynchronous replication capabilities of Hitachi Universal Replicator software and the synchronous replication capabilities of Hitachi TrueCopy® Synchronous software.

A Universal Storage Platform V is deployed at the main data center, at the nearline data center and at the disaster recovery site. The main data center connects to the nearline site through a 1Gb/sec link, and to the disaster recovery site with a 45Mb/sec link. The nearline site also connects to the disaster recovery site through a 45Mb/sec link. The data writing happens in the main data center and nearline site synchronously, within 3ms, and asynchronously between the main data center and disaster recovery sites, as well as nearline and disaster recovery sites in under a second.

Virtualizing for Efficiency

Prior to this, the bank also had modular storage boxes from Sun. With the Hitachi storage solution, these boxes now appear as part of the new storage setup, enabled by the virtualization capability of the Universal Storage Platform V. The bank now runs its tier 2 applications on the modular systems.

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BR Bhat
General Manager
Corporation Bank
Benefits

Three Data Center Storage-based Data Replication with Delta Resync

The three way storage synchronization over the Hitachi storage solution ensures that the bank data is stored in all three locations almost simultaneously. Thus, even if the main site goes down, the bank, having ensured high availability and business continuity, can continue its functions smoothly.

Significantly Reduced Chances of Data Loss

S Kumar, head of data center at Corporation Bank, says, “We have been able to significantly improve our recovery time objective (RTO) and recovery point objective (RPO).” RTO is a measure of how quickly can data be recovered, and RPO defines how much volume of data an organization is prepared to lose in case of an outage. “COBOL-based applications do have data losses during outages. But once we move to a better database, such as Oracle, with the Hitachi Data Systems solution we will have zero data loss,” he says.

Cost Saving Data Tiering via Virtualization

Virtualizing the older storage boxes and making them run as part of the new system has facilitated the bank’s reuse of its existing infrastructure for all tier 2 applications, thus ensuring investment protection. This has helped the bank to consolidate its applications on a single storage platform, and there has been a remarkable improvement in the operations. This has helped in significant cost savings and improved storage capacity usage with better return on assets (ROA).