

By standardizing on Hitachi's cutting-edge BladeSymphony servers, the IT support division for the newly consolidated Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ cut cost and complexity—and positioned the bank to deliver on the demands of next-generation financial business.

Profile: Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ, Ltd.

- Part of Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group, created by merger of Tokyo Mitsubishi Bank and UFJ Bank in 2006
- Provider of a broad portfolio of financial services
- 61,065 employees

Customer Profile: UFJIS Co., Ltd.

- Plans, develops, and maintains IT infrastructure for the Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ and the Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group
- 400 employees

Customer Challenge

- Integrate multiple platforms and applications from merging banks
- Consolidate infrastructure to simplify and cut costs in the new environment
- Standardize system platforms for cost efficiency
- Deliver high levels of security, reliability, availability, and performance

BladeSymphony Benefits

- Batch distribution of OS/security patches for high efficiency
- Compatibility with Hitachi SANRISE arrays for unified management
- Superior scalability in small, cost-efficient increments

Business Results

- Ability to cut cost and complexity without sacrificing service levels
- Ability to standardize server platforms for diverse needs
- Ability to consolidate multiple applications onto one reliable platform

“BladeSymphony servers now run applications that are used by about 50,000 of the new bank’s customers and partners. Thanks to BladeSymphony we managed to complete the integration process with minimal disruption.”

Motonari Chinuki, Head of the IT Products Division, UFJIS

Corporate mergers and acquisitions always present daunting challenges for IT professionals—particularly in the financial services industry. When banks merge, the usual system integration challenges are compounded by regulatory issues, elevated data security requirements, and a need for extremely high levels of system reliability and availability.

At the same time, the pressure to keep costs in line is intense. Beyond simply integrating the multiple platforms and applications of the merging entities, IT must find ways to simplify the new IT environment and cut cost and risk—without compromising on performance or service levels.

One Japanese bank found that a novel approach to consolidation paid off in outstanding results: the use of Hitachi BladeSymphony servers.

Producing New IT Standards

In January 2006, when the Tokyo Mitsubishi Bank merged with UFJ Bank to form the Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ, the company that oversaw the IT infrastructure of the merged organization, UFJIS Co., Ltd., made a crucial decision: to consolidate much of the diverse application workload of the two banks onto Hitachi BladeSymphony servers.

“I was the first user of the unproven BladeSymphony server because I recognized the potential of its innovative concept,” said Motonari Chinuki, Head of the IT Products Division of UFJIS, which provides the Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group (MUFJ) with IT support. “This March it will have been exactly one year since we started using it, and it has already become one of our standards.”

More than 110 BladeSymphony servers now run mission-critical applications at the consolidated Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ, which provides a wide range of high-quality financial products and services throughout Japan.

The charter of UFJIS is to provide the companies within the Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group, such as the Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ, with standardized IT environments. “We aim to optimize IT investment by standardizing systems,” said Mr. Chinuki. “After testing new technologies from various companies, we integrate the proven ones into the group’s shared infrastructure.”

Superior Security, Compatibility, and Scalability

The key factor behind the selection of BladeSymphony was security, according to Mr. Chinuki.

With steadily increasing regulatory requirements for information security, as exemplified by the new law concerning the protection of personal information, UFJ Bank had selected Citrix Presentation Server, a solution that does not leave data exposed on a PC and allows employees to safely use their laptops at home and on business trips.

To further increase security in the consolidated bank's infrastructure, UFJIS chose BladeSymphony. "The biggest factor was the batch distribution of OS/security patches, a feature that surprisingly is not provided by any other company," said Mr. Chinuki. "BladeSymphony eliminates the hassle of having to apply frequently updated security patches to each computer one by one. If you apply the patch to one server, you can automatically copy it to the other servers. This eliminates the risk of human error and allows us to maintain uniform security levels," he said. "It also frees up our system engineers from a lot of tedious, manual tasks."

BladeSymphony servers are also compatible with Hitachi SANRISE disk arrays, an important factor for UFJIS. "SANRISE is very reliable, and BladeSymphony works well with SANRISE because it allows you to include SANRISE in your unified systems management," said Mr. Chinuki. "It reduces costs and increases reliability."

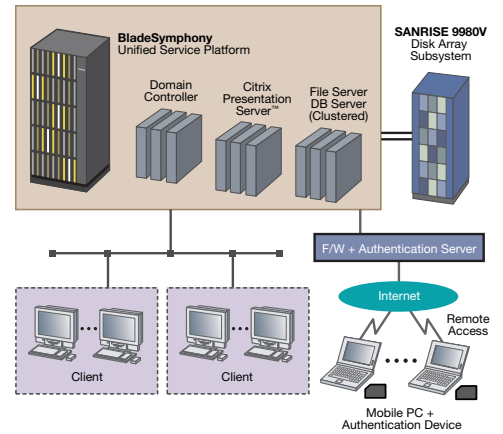
In addition, the superior scalability of BladeSymphony led to its initial selection by UFJIS and subsequent standardization. "The scalability of BladeSymphony allowed us to add more resources after a small initial installation," he said.

Ushering in a New Era of Cooperation

The power of BladeSymphony servers was also applied to post-merger IT activities, according to Mr. Chinuki. UFJ Bank had been using two types of operating systems for its internal OA environment: Microsoft Windows 2000 and Windows NT. However, Tokyo-Mitsubishi Bank was using Windows XP. After the merger, it was decided to consolidate everything on Windows XP. This raised the problem of having to transfer UFJ Bank's Netscape-based personnel and financial systems to Windows XP.

"We had to enable legacy access that was not dependent on browser type or version," said Mr. Chinuki. "So we decided to combine Citrix Presentation Server with BladeSymphony, because BladeSymphony had a good track record for remote access." Specifically, legacy applications that had been consolidated on BladeSymphony could be accessed from the new Windows XP client.

"BladeSymphony servers now run applications that are used by about 50,000 of the new bank's customers and partners," said Mr. Chinuki. "We are satisfied with both its speed and reliability. Thanks to BladeSymphony we managed to complete the integration process with minimal disruption."



Equally important, UFJIS will continue to promote the use of BladeSymphony as a cornerstone of its "Integrated Financial Platform" to all companies in the group.

"Using an integrated financial platform reduces the cost of provisioning a server by about two thirds," said Mr. Chinuki.

In the fast-paced world of finance, ever-increasing levels of flexibility and automation will be required of IT systems. "I would like to continue working with Hitachi to nurture and develop BladeSymphony so that it can play a large role in the future of this company," said Mr. Chinuki.

Learn More

To learn more about the Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ, visit www.bk.mufg.jp/english/. For additional details about the BladeSymphony server line from Hitachi, visit www.bladesymphony.com.

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