

Fact Sheet: Hitachi BladeSymphony with Virtage

The Blade Server Market Challenge

Blade servers first appeared in 2001 as a way to pack more computing power into less space, allowing companies to consolidate servers, cut cost and complexity, and simplify management. Initially, there was considerable enthusiasm among business customers. But over the past few years the limitations of blade computing became apparent. Inadequate scalability, compromises in I/O and other capabilities, excessive heat generation and increased complexity in blade management, caused many data center managers to seek other alternatives. The challenge remains to provide an enterprise-class blade solution that delivers all the benefits common to most blade-based solutions, such as server consolidation, centralized management, reduced cabling and simplified configuration.

Hitachi BladeSymphony with Virtage: The First True Enterprise-Class Blade Server

For companies that want to cut the cost, risk, and complexity of hosting mission-critical applications, Hitachi offers a unique and compelling solution. BladeSymphony with Virtage, the first true enterprise-class blade server is the latest addition to Hitachi's BladeSymphony series. It combines breakthrough embedded virtualization technology (Virtage), integrated management capabilities, and powerful, scalable system resources. Virtage, the embedded virtualization feature, builds virtualization right into a blade server's hardware for the first time. Built on standards-based multi-core Intel® processor technology with VT (Intel Virtualization Technology), Virtage allows users to combine, scale, and virtualize BladeSymphony Intel® Itanium®2 processor-based blades. By providing customers an alternative to third-party software solutions, Virtage can enable them to decrease overhead costs while increasing manageability and performance. Other features of BladeSymphony with Virtage include:

- A 10U chassis with hot swappable server modules that can run on both Windows and Linux
- Support for dual-core Intel® Itanium® 2 9000 Series processors
- Support for BladeSymphony Intel Xeon processor blades within the same chassis
- Available in more 16-way SMP configurations than any other blade on the market
- Available in four-way, two-processor, and dual-core Intel® Itanium® 2 processor blades
- Capable of scaling up and out to offer up to two 16-way SMP servers in a single chassis.

This powerful mix of flexibility, integration and scalability makes BladeSymphony with Virtage effective for any enterprise, but particularly for customers running large custom applications and companies actively acquiring other organizations or running other high-growth applications. In fact, BladeSymphony with Virtage represents far more than an incremental improvement over existing products and technologies from other vendors. It represents a true breakthrough that finally delivers on the industry's promises.

About Hitachi, Hitachi America and the Hitachi Server Systems Group

In October 2005, Hitachi Ltd. established the server systems business unit in Hitachi America Ltd., to provide server-based solutions in North America. BladeSymphony is part of Hitachi's global IT platform business operation in North America. The unit is led by Vice President and General Manager Elizabeth King, an enterprise technology veteran with more than 20 years of experience at Hitachi, Lucent Technologies and Sun Microsystems.

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Hitachi, Ltd., headquartered in Tokyo, is a leading global electronics company with approximately 356,000 employees worldwide. Fiscal 2005 (ended March 31, 2006) consolidated sales totaled ¥9,464 billion (\$80.9 billion). The company offers a wide range of systems, products and services in market sectors including information systems, electronic devices, power and industrial systems, consumer products, materials and financial services. For more information on Hitachi, please visit the company's website at www.hitachi.com.

For more information, please contact Steve Campbell at 408-970-4877 or steve.campbell@hal.hitachi.com or visit www.hitachi.us/servers

Media contact: Dave Reddy, Weber Shandwick for Hitachi Server Systems Group, 650-868-4659 or dreddy@webershandwick.com