

TMB Bank achieves IT efficiency with server consolidation on HP BladeSystem



“Our priority is to provide quality integrated service to every group of our customers. We therefore need servers that allow us to deliver reliability, high performance and top quality management. HP’s IT consolidation solution with HP BladeSystem significantly reduced our costs, rack space and staff hours, while improving utilisation and performance.”

- Khun Saipin Kittipornpimol

Executive Vice President, Information Technology Group
TMB Bank Public Co., Ltd.

Objective:

Strengthen all aspects of IT infrastructure and risk management to support the Bank’s expanding business and services

Approach:

- Adopt HP’s Adaptive Infrastructure framework
- Use of HP Solution Demo Portal to showcase HP technologies
- Consolidate servers with HP BladeSystem
- Minimise risk in system migration using P2V (Physical to Virtual) and V2P (Virtual to Physical) approaches

Business benefits:

- Higher IT utilisation rates and better employee productivity
- Greater business agility
- Reduced space usage by 75%
- Lowered wiring and operational costs by 50%
- Simplified management of the new IT environment



Background

TMB Bank Public Company Limited was established in 1957 with a mission to provide financial services as an added benefit to military personnel and their families. Over the years, TMB Bank has become a full commercial bank and enlarged its customer base to include the general public. Currently, the Bank is among the top five Thai commercial banks. Its mission is to innovate and introduce modern and quality products and services for every group of customers.



Khun Saipin Kittipornpimol
Executive Vice President,
Information Technology Group
TMB Bank Public Co., Ltd.

TMB Bank's requirement

To support its expansion in business and services as well as to strengthen all aspects of risk management, TMB Bank developed its information technology to keep abreast of the latest developments. This included the Bank's servers which are directly responsible for providing accurate, precise and speedy financial services in data and software transfers within the network. Any disruption to server operations would affect the Bank's data and services.

Khun Saipin Kittipornpimol, Executive Vice President, Information Technology Group, TMB Bank Public Co., Ltd. said "Our previous servers had been in use for many years and we were experiencing poor server performance, and inefficient power consumption and space utilisation. Moreover, the servers were unable to support the most recent applications."

The older systems, many of which were out of warranty, required more maintenance by our IT staff. As a result, the Bank had to shoulder high maintenance costs.

Server consolidation made possible with HP BladeSystem

HP's Adaptive Infrastructure framework helped the Bank align its IT operations with changing business requirements, enabling the Bank to respond in a timely and efficient manner in order to maximise investments while minimising risks.

The HP Server Consolidation approach assisted the Bank in its analysis of the utilisation of its existing and future servers to ensure optimum performance and maximise IT investment. The architecture is based on simplification, standardisation, modularity and integration. It also utilises virtualisation technology as well as VMware that enables the rapid creation of multiple virtual servers. Consolidating these virtual machines effectively utilised the capacity of servers resulting in cost savings and improved agility.

The server consolidation solution on HP BladeSystem helped the Bank meet its business requirements. The solution was designed and developed to enhance management efficiency and support the mission-critical demands of its data centre.

The HP Solution Demo Portal is a virtual online library enabling customers to learn about how HP technologies lead, innovate and transform enterprise business. It is an interactive tool that allows customers to learn about HP product demonstrations, Webinars, customer success stories, and marketing collateral. This virtual library includes live and pre-recorded product demos featuring HP hardware, software, services, and partnerships in an exciting multimedia format. TMB attended HP's BladeSystem live demonstration at the Virtual Demo Centre, and the session turned out to be a great success.

"Attending the demonstration at the Virtual Demo Centre allowed our IT department to experience HP BladeSystem's breakthrough performance and outstanding efficiency. It's certainly true to say that the unique Virtual Demo Centre is one of the driving factors behind our ultimate decision to select the HP blade server", said Khun Saipin.

HP migration services

With a wide range of applications supporting both the Bank's operations and its customers, it was important to manage the risks involved in system migration. HP Services selected P2V (Physical to Virtual) and V2P (Virtual to Physical) approaches to reduce risks in system migration. P2V and V2P enable migration of operating systems, application and data from the older servers to VMware's Virtual Machine, before migration to a compatible terminal server. As for servers that are not compatible with the system, the team needed to ensure that the migration would result in zero or minimal risk to the Bank.



What is the HP BladeSystem?

The HP BladeSystem combines servers, storage, power and networking in an innovative modular architecture that simplifies the configuration and management of IT resources.

Its principal components are the ultra-dense blade servers that provide the computing power. Consisting of a motherboard, CPU, RAM, hard drive, LAN and SAN connection, HP BladeSystem servers are advanced, industry-standard servers that support multiple applications and operating systems.

In addition, HP offers the BladeSystem Management Suite software that allows faster and more convenient data transfers from the existing servers, as tape drives are not required. This substantially reduced time for data transfers. The software set comprises:

- **HP Systems Insight Manager**

HP Systems Insight Manager (SIM) alerts TMB Bank to pre-empt failures before they occur, so that the drives can be replaced before they go down. It also includes the HP BladeSystem Integrated Management feature, which offers streamlined management and configuration access specifically for the HP BladeSystem.

- **HP ProLiant Essentials Rapid Deployment Pack**

Rapid Deployment Pack (RDP) software enables quick and easy installation, configuration and deployment of blade servers from a GUI- or web-based console. It also works seamlessly with the provisioning function of the HP BladeSystem, which allows a specific image to be assigned to a specific slot in the chassis.



- **HP Integrated Lights-Out**

HP Integrated Lights-Out software empowers IT staff with secure remote management control over the blade servers. They can install, configure, monitor, update and troubleshoot servers remotely, using any standard web browser, command line or script.

TMB Bank placed its trust in the HP BladeSystem portfolio, the industry's most comprehensive portfolio. With dual-core processor technology, the HP BladeSystem offers higher performance for the Bank.

The outcome

"The most outstanding outcome of the transition to HP BladeSystem servers is the fact that we can reduce the number of server cabinets from ten to two, reducing space usage by three-quarters. This led to a reduction of air-conditioning and electricity costs in the server room," said Khun Saipin.

Maximise data-centre space

With server consolidation on HP BladeSystem, TMB Bank can eliminate the problems of lack of space, as well as wiring, cooling and power requirements. Multiple blade servers can be housed in a single rack enclosure – as many as 48 servers in a 42U enclosure.

Increased IT utilisation rates

HP BladeSystem servers, which support a virtual server environment, helped TMB Bank to deploy many applications and fully utilise the capacity of its servers. With virtualisation technology, TMB Bank can pool and share server blade resources so that multiple applications can run on a single blade server. Using the HP ProLiant Essentials Virtual Machine Management Pack, application workload can be managed more easily, bringing simplicity and flexibility to the entire IT infrastructure. With virtualisation, TMB Bank can now reduce costs and increase agility simultaneously.

Enhanced business agility

TMB Bank's expected growth over the coming years is high. HP BladeSystem servers offer scalability, industry-standard computing power to support its growing number of applications, users and technologies. HP BladeSystem servers are compact, flexible and scalable. They enable TMB Bank to grow their infrastructure in response to business growth.

Simplified management

With the complexity of the IT setup which was incurring high management and technical support costs – as well as the overhead of having to learn and operate different management tools for different resources. Server consolidation on BladeSystem servers offer simplified management and create a managed environment that reduces operation costs. This resulted in IT staff efficiency.

"HP is able to reassure us in terms of support for additional applications in the future. The HP BladeSystem solution includes web hosting, terminal server farm and module media architecture. Compared to the former 1U server, the new servers help cut operational cost and cable installation cost by 50 percent. The HP BladeSystem solution protects our investments. It optimises our processes and creates the best technical basis for future development, Khun Saipin concluded.

Customer solution at a glance

Primary applications

- Server consolidation approach
- HP Solution Demo Portal

Primary hardware

HP BladeSystem

Primary software

HP BladeSystem Management Suite:

- HP Systems Insight Manager
- HP ProLiant Essentials Rapid Deployment Pack
- HP Integrated Lights-Out

HP Services

System migration using P2V and V2P approaches

To learn more about HP, visit www.hp.com

© 2007 Hewlett-Packard Development Company, L.P. The information contained herein is subject to change without notice. The only warranties for HP products and services are set forth in the express warranty statements accompanying such products and services. Nothing herein should be construed as constituting an additional warranty. HP shall not be liable for technical or editorial errors or omissions contained herein.

4AA1-0565EEP, February 2007

