sabesp

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Alexandre Rocha
Head of the Operations and Infrastructure Department, Sabesp

Sabesp purchases Fujitsu servers featuring modern technology which provide improved flexibility in the use of tools and applications, as well as reducing costs.

At a glance
Country: Brazil
Industry: Waste management
Founded: 1973
Employees: 15,000
Website: sabesp.com.br

Challenge
Sabesp was using a proprietary mainframe platform with obsolete technology and high maintenance costs due to the difficulty of finding qualified personnel. It needed to install modern infrastructure that would provide it with greater processing power and be open to the products and services on the market.

Solution
Fujitsu won the Sabesp tendering process to meet its specified capacity and price criteria regarding the installation of an open environment platform with SAP technology, and based on x86 architecture.

Benefit
■ Platform with modern technology

■ Flexibility to use market tools and solutions

■ Increased support availability

■ Reduced costs

■ Improved data protection security

■ Improved processing power

■ Modularity enables equipment and services to be easily scaled up

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Customer

Sabesp is one of the largest waste management companies in the world. It was founded in 1973 following the merger of several municipal companies. It is responsible for the catchment, treatment, and distribution of drinking water, as well as the collection and treatment of sewage in the 366 municipalities of the State of São Paulo, serving in total almost 30 million people. Whilst its shares are traded on the New York and São Paulo stock exchanges, it is controlled and managed by the State of São Paulo. In 2016, its operating profit was BRL 10,768 million.

Products and Services

- 8 x FUJITSU Server PRIMEQUEST 1800E2
- 10 x FUJITSU Server PRIMEQUEST 2800E
- 2 x FUJITSU Server PRIMEQUEST 2800 E2
- Configuration of 4 servers as SAP® HANA® appliances

Challenge

All the commercial, administrative, and financial systems at Sabesp were based on a proprietary mainframe platform using the COBOL language. Since this is an obsolete technology, it is difficult to find suitable professionals in the market, thereby complicating system maintenance.

"With the integration of the administrative and financial systems, the maintenance of specific rules and procedures became highly complex. And this has regularly compromised deadlines," explains Alexandre Rocha, Head of the Operations and Infrastructure Department, Sabesp.

This problem led Sabesp to deploy a SAP platform. Since Sabesp is a mixed capital company, with the government the controlling shareholder, it is required by law to call for tenders and specify the types of machines and system requirements needed.

"The supplier is selected during the tender process. There was fierce competition between several players. Fujitsu won because it offered the best product at the best price," says Rocha.

Solution

First of all, in 2013, Sabesp purchased PRIMEQUEST servers running the Linux operating system, with support from Fujitsu. In a second environment, Fujitsu provided a HANA solution, transforming two machines already certified for SAP technology. Sabesp ended up adding a disaster recovery site, which involved replicating equipment, including mission critical machines.

Currently, Sabesp owns four servers configured as SAP HANA appliances, of which two are PRIMEQUEST 1800E2 models with 1TB of memory each, and the other two being PRIMEQUEST 2800E2 models with 3TB each. In total, Fujitsu supplied Sabesp with twenty PRIMEQUEST servers, including eight 1800E2 models, ten 2800E models and two 2800 E2 models.

"The security criteria are important since a data center covering 366 municipalities is involved, especially when user information is concerned," emphasizes Rocha.

The FUJITSU Server PRIMEQUEST processor family is equipped with powerful processors capable of running either Linux or Microsoft Windows operating systems. They are open to market solutions which offer protection against errors and guarantee high availability and continuity of service.

FUJITSU Server PRIMEQUEST machines have an x86-based architecture which enables the use of solutions designed to process large volumes of data, such as SAP HANA, and which is something Sabesp intended. The equipment's modularity facilitated several IT infrastructure expansions at Sabesp, which is still carrying out the system migration process.

"Due to the sizing planned by the consortium implementing this project, there was the requirement for high-volume SAP processing. And one of the few machines able to meet this requirement was Fujitsu's own platform, after a few necessary modifications," says Rocha.

Benefit

The main benefit of the transition from the mainframe platform to the x86 platform of the Fujitsu PRIMEQUEST servers was high availability in the environment, flexibility, and lower cost, primarily in relation to support costs. By migrating to an open environment, Sabesp now has an improved ecosystem of available tools and applications, as well as more professionals qualified to work in the environment.

"As a state-owned company, Sabesp must follow tendering procedures. The x86 platform enables us to profit from competition between several market players. Therefore, I have more possibilities at more competitive prices, I'm not tied to just one platform or company," says Rocha.

The new platform can facilitate improved external access from all business units to the various systems deployed to the SAP modules, as well as from HANA itself.

Within the basic sanitation services field, Sabesp will be one of the first companies worldwide to deploy a SAP system with this number of modules and applications. "There is a very strong cultural change in the company. The trend is for the market to follow the model adopted by Sabesp," says Rocha.

The project has already been awarded the Data Center Dynamics Award in the 'High Availability and Resiliency in Cloud Computing' category. Rocha believes that having a secure market platform, with Fujitsu servers and a SAP system, could be reflected in a market evaluation.

"It provides improved security for investors because they know that during development of program source code, the information is preserved. We are moving towards the use of a market tool which is secure and which makes any type of fraud difficult," he concludes.