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Masashi Toyama Manager
IT Planning & Administration Department
Hodogaya Chemical Co., Ltd.

Strengthened infrastructure that supports business expansion by improving operational efficiency and reducing costs.

At a glance

Country: Japan

Industry: Manufacturing

Founded: 1916

Employees: 760 (consolidated),
377 (non-consolidated) (as of Mar. 31, 2013)

Website: www.hodogaya.co.jp/

Challenge

- Even out the costs of hardware upgrades made every five years
- Improve the performance of the information analysis tool
- Streamline the IT Planning & Administration Department’s operation and maintenance tasks

Solution

Poised to upgrade its mission-critical system, which it ran on SAP, Hodogaya Chemical Co., Ltd. considered migrating the system to the cloud and chose to adopt FUJITSU Cloud IaaS Private Hosted LCP (Private Hosted LCP) after placing high value on Private Hosted LCP’s capabilities to streamline operations and significantly reduce costs.

Benefit

- Reduced costs as a result of adopting the cloud (IaaS), where even mission-critical systems can be offloaded, eliminating the need for hardware upgrades
- Highly responsive experience for users due to a reduction in the batch processing time to one-fifth of the previous processing time
- Freed by use of the cloud from the burden of operation and maintenance tasks, the IT Planning & Administration Department can focus on strategic internal tasks

Customer

Hodogaya Chemical makes a wide range of products to respond to the needs of the times, from dyes and agricultural chemicals to pharmaceutical intermediates, polyurethane materials, and information recording materials, not to mention charge control agents (CCAs), for which the company has the highest market share in the world.

Products and services

■ FUJITSU Cloud IaaS Private Hosted LCP



Challenge

One challenge faced by the IT Planning & Administration Department, which is responsible for the company's IT strategies, was to upgrade the hardware of mission-critical systems running on SAP.

"As the IT division of a manufacturer, we always faced the challenge of system hardware upgrades. Every five years, such hardware must be replaced, and each time we face the burden of significant costs and workloads from the perspective of the users of such hardware. We wondered whether there was any way to even out such costs and burdens in order to overcome the obstacle of hardware upgrades," says Masashi Toyama, Manager of the IT Planning & Administration Department, Hodogaya Chemical Co., Ltd.

Setting a target of September 2013, the upgrade deadline, the IT Planning & Administration Department started discussions in spring 2012. In the process of choosing a vendor, all department members offered opinions from both qualitative aspects, such as service content and support details, and quantitative aspects, such as costs and operating rates, bringing together their evaluations of vendors.

"We adopted Private Hosted LCP, which received the highest overall score in our evaluation. The decisive factors behind the adoption were its reliability, cost, and sense of security. In addition to Fujitsu's track record in operating IaaS, we think highly of the cloud platform's high reliability," says Toyama.

Solution

The project kicked off in June 2013. The company decided to migrate the devices targeted for replacement this time to Private Hosted LCP, which logically isolates VMware-based shared virtual infrastructure and enables use of a secure, highly confidential cloud environment with private lines. In addition, the company decided to physically relocate devices that were not targeted for replacement this time, housing them in the Fujitsu data center that provides the cloud environment.

"Since we could not extend the maintenance contract and the project had a deadline, we were quite tense. Fujitsu system engineers have extensive experience in SAP migration and responsibly carried out tasks, including schedule management. Thanks to their help, we completed the migration smoothly without trouble," says Satoshi Tokunaga, Group Leader of the Operation and Maintenance Group in the company's IT Planning & Administration Department.

Conventional mission-critical systems incur various costs related to operation and maintenance, such as maintenance costs, data center usage charges, and operation monitoring service fees as well as system upgrade costs. Use of Private Hosted LCP this time has significantly reduced these costs. As for the challenge of improving the performance of the information analysis tool (SAP BW), Fujitsu was able to reduce the batch processing time to one-fifth, which users highly appreciated.

Based on Fujitsu's wealth of experience in introducing SAP, Fujitsu securely migrated the existing system to a virtual environment within a short period (3.5 months) and continues to operate the system stably.

Benefit

"Since Fujitsu data center operators operate all systems on our behalf, we have been freed from the burden of operational tasks and can now focus on more important strategic internal tasks. I really feel that use of the cloud has a great advantage that cannot be measured only in terms of costs," says Tokunaga.

"Aiming to evolve into a corporation that steadily supplies 'Only One/Number One' materials in the global and niche markets in 2016, when we will celebrate our 100th anniversary, we have formulated a medium-term management plan and are actively working to carry it out in various ways. Among these, enhancing the company's foundational businesses is of particular importance, and we aim to strengthen the profitability of these businesses by reducing costs, increasing production capacities, and developing new application areas," comments Kenya Tsubono, Assistant Manager of the company's Corporate Planning Department.

Fujitsu will continue to contribute to Hodogaya Chemical's global management strategies by providing all kinds of services, including operations support for mission-critical systems. This project's success created solid ground for Hodogaya Chemical to strengthen its supporting infrastructure, expand businesses to achieve future growth and create new products, and further reinforce its global operation system.

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