

“The Fujitsu engineers’ advanced skills enabled us to migrate our SAP system to cloud while improving performance. I am grateful for their flexible and prompt response throughout the project.”

Keiju Hirano
Head of IT&BPR Department
Toyo Gosei Co., Ltd.

Improving performance and strengthening disaster response measures by migrating on premise SAP systems to FUJITSU Cloud Service A5 for Microsoft Azure.

At a glance

Country: Japan
Industry: Manufacturing
Founded: 1954
Employees: 519 (as of March 31, 2016)
Website: www.toyogosei.co.jp

Challenge

- Decrease performance due to aging hardware and an increasing number of users
- Disaster response measures limited to data backup

Solution

Issued an RFP and selected Fujitsu’s proposal on SAP migration using FUJITSU Cloud Service A5 for Microsoft Azure.

Benefit

- Improved performance of the overall system which is 10x faster than the conventional one depending on the process
- Strengthened disaster response measures by being able to make quick backups of the entire system

Customer

Toyo Gosei Co., Ltd. is a chemical manufacturer founded in 1954. It began manufacturing and refining chemicals for medicinal drugs. Today the company operates two core businesses: One is its photosensitive material operation in which photosensitive materials essential for forming semiconductor circuits are manufactured and the other is its chemical product operations.

Products and services

■ FUJITSU Cloud Service A5 for Microsoft Azure



Challenge

Photosensitive materials are more precisely “photoresist” materials that cause a chemical reaction in response to light and enable high-precision processing. Ayako Fukai, a member of the PR and IR Group explains, “Photoresist is an essential material for the manufacture of semiconductor devices and LCD displays and our technology products support today’s age of information.”

The company was using an on premise SAP system for mission-critical systems for about eight years. At first, the company installed servers in its plant in Chiba Prefecture. It later relocated them to a data center and has been continuing to operate them there. The company had taken various measures during that time. Keiju Hirano, Head of IT&BPR Department says, “After the manufacturer’s five-year maintenance support for the servers expired, we extended the maintenance contract for about two years. When it expired again we then entered a third-party maintenance service contract to continue to use the servers. However, as the number of users increased, disk capacity became proportionately smaller and we often experienced problems in performance. So, we finally decided to replace the servers.”

Solution

The company then started to study the on premise, cloud and other systems. In September 2014, it started to prepare an RFP and compared proposals submitted in response from five companies. As a result, the company chose Fujitsu’s proposal on SAP migration using FUJITSU Cloud Service A5 for Microsoft Azure.

Hirano explains the reason for adopting Fujitsu’s proposal as follows, “First, Fujitsu carefully responded to each one of the items we incorporated into the RFP. That was the biggest reason.”

The next biggest reason was the use of Panaya, SAP’s application migration support tool which was incorporated into Fujitsu’s proposal. Upgrading SAP systems requires efficient program modifications and verification testing. Using Panaya allows users to significantly reduce the man-hours for such tasks. “Our Information System Division has seven members. Using Panaya to reduce the man-hours was a very attractive proposal for us as we needed to proceed with the project with just a few staff members,” says Hirano.

The SAP migration project was then launched in April 2015. During the development period of about nine months, the company faced an issue where performance was not as good as expected.

However, it cleared the issue by changing the storage to SSD and adjusting the OS and SQLServer parameters. In January 2016, a new SAP system successfully started running on A5 for Microsoft Azure.

Benefit

In terms of benefits from implementing the new system, Hirano says, “The largest benefit is improved performance. For example, data is obtained from the SAP system at each plant on a monthly basis, but previously this process often timed out. However, in the new system, the same process can now be completed in one minute. Since the timeout time was ten minutes, the processing speed is more than ten times faster than before. So overall, performance has definitely improved.”

According to Kunihiro Imai, Chief of IT&BPR Department, the company also feels benefits in terms of disaster response measures that on premise systems could not bring about. He says, “Only data was backed up in the former environment. However, with A5 for Microsoft Azure, we can back up the system instantly, and the data can also be backed up in the western Japan region, so we now have a remarkably enhanced sense of security.”

By migrating the system to A5 for Microsoft Azure, Toyo Gosei has improved performance and strengthened disaster response measures. Imai says, “Another great benefit is the acquisition of knowledge on Azure. What proves convenient is that we can immediately create a test server if we bear the monthly charge. We are now considering a file server using A5 for Microsoft Azure.”

Both Hirano and Imai highly praised Fujitsu for its response throughout the project. “I have a good impression of the Fujitsu engineers’ skills in making proposals, technological skills, and problem solving capabilities. I hope Fujitsu will continue to help us improve the overall Azure service.”

Imai concludes, “Fujitsu was very helpful since it established a cooperative system for us with Microsoft and SAP for the project.”

It required an advanced effort in Japan to use A5 for mission-critical systems employing SAP not only in the development environment but also in the production environment. Fujitsu will continue to support Toyo Gosei in using cloud, and thereby contributing to its business development.

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