



Preface

Special Issue on Middleware for Cloud Computing

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Today, companies that wish to compete successfully in a global market need a management system that can respond quickly to an extremely dynamic business environment. Information and communications technology (ICT) systems, which play the role of a management infrastructure, must therefore be able to deal quickly and appropriately with management problems. Cloud computing, which is now entering its application stage, is attracting considerable attention as a technology that can respond quickly to needs and optimize costs as required of ICT systems.

Fujitsu began to provide cloud services to support customers in new-business creation in April 2009. This was followed by the provision of private-cloud infrastructure products beginning in October 2009, the provision of cloud operations-management products beginning in June 2010, and the launch of the On-Demand Virtual System Service (OViSS) in October 2010.

Fujitsu's OViSS enables customers to obtain virtual servers and storage as computer resources only when they need them and only in the amount needed. This service has expanded to five Fujitsu overseas data centers under the name "Fujitsu Global Cloud Platform." Composed of Fujitsu hardware and middleware, Fujitsu Global Cloud Platform can guarantee a high degree of reliability and uniformity.

In this Special Issue on Middleware for Cloud Computing, we introduce Fujitsu middleware products as the core technology of Fujitsu's cloud services. These products consist of:

- Interstage: a Java execution platform for constructing business systems applying service-oriented architecture (SOA) technology
- Symfoware: mission-critical database software guaranteeing stable operation and business continuity that has been successfully implemented at many sites including the Tokyo Stock Exchange as part of its “arrowhead” trading system
- Systemwalker: integrated operation and management software for managing the entire lifecycle of a system based on Information Technology Infrastructure Library (ITIL) technology

Thanks to our customers, Symfoware was rated No. 1 in a customer satisfaction survey (Open Systems RDB Software, Nikkei Computer, August 2009) and Systemwalker was ranked No. 1 in sales (Operation and Management Software Market, July 2009, IDC Japan).

Furthermore, the cloud operations-management products launched in June 2010 served to systematize the know-how accumulated in the construction and operation of OViSS (now Fujitsu Global Cloud Platform) in the on-premises cloud field. These products, the only systematic group of products for private clouds have been highly evaluated by customers in Japan.

Taking responsibility for the software that it provides to customers, Fujitsu has applied these middleware products at its own Numazu Software Development Cloud Center and has strengthened these products through actual use on in-house systems. The conversion of this software development center to a cloud platform has reduced annual costs by about 700 million yen, has reduced the time it takes to construct a development environment from about 6 hours to 10 minutes, and has greatly contributed to reducing environmental load by reducing CO₂ emissions by about 1340 tons.

To further support the Fujitsu cloud and to significantly contribute to solving our customers’ management problems, we look forward to working with our customers on the planning and development of robust middleware products and to providing them on a global basis.