

Case study

Fujitsu Technology and Business of America, Inc. (FTBA)

» The compact and powerful Fujitsu M10-1 servers not only give us business continuity, but they also offer superior price-performance that allows us to meet, and often exceed, the expectations of our business users.«

Catherine Nice, CFO, Fujitsu Technology and Business of America, Inc.



The customer

Fujitsu Technology and Business of America, Inc. provides technology and business support services to Fujitsu Limited and 17 Fujitsu affiliated companies in the United States. These services include Marketing, Patent filing, Procurement operations, Accounting, Tax, Facilities, Risk Management, Employee Benefit programs, Human Resources, as well as supporting IT operations for the Subaru telescope operations and Research & Development Engineering..

The challenge

FTBA uses Oracle E-Business Suite for critical business processes and operations, and also provides financial and facility services to Fujitsu affiliate companies. In order to prepare for business growth and drive greater efficiencies across the entire organization, FTBA needed to transition its core business operations from Oracle E-Business Suite Release 11i to the latest and most advanced Release 12. FTBA had been using Fujitsu PRIMEPOWER servers, but it quickly became apparent during the initial planning phase that hardware infrastructure modernization would allow the increased capability and performance of Oracle E-Business Suite R12 to be fully utilized.

As a service provider to other Fujitsu affiliate companies, FTBA could not tolerate interruptions to its business operations. System reliability as well as capacity were extremely important considerations in evaluating the new server infrastructure. The ability to easily scale workloads was also critical because FTBA experienced peak demands with its monthly, quarterly and year-end financial and accounting reporting cycles.

The solution

Previously, FTBA had successfully deployed its database and applications on four servers in the Sunnyvale, California datacenter, running two Fujitsu PRIMEPOWER 450 servers for the database layer and two Fujitsu PRIMEPOWER 250 servers for the application layer. An additional Fujitsu PRIMEPOWER 450 server was provisioned for database disaster recovery at a remote site in Richardson, Texas.

A key challenge facing the IT staff was the time spent troubleshooting past performance issues, so it was clear that a flexible and scalable server architecture was needed to address these productivity and performance challenges.

The Customer

Country: United States
Industry: Information Technology
Customer: Fujitsu Technology and Business of America, Inc.
Website: www.fujitsu.com



The Challenge

A major upgrade involving the transition of critical business operations from Oracle E-Business Suite Release 11i to Release 12 and modernization of server infrastructure while minimizing service disruptions. A flexible and scalable server infrastructure was needed to address productivity and performance challenges, meet growing capacity demands, all while reducing costs.

The Solution

Three compact and powerful Fujitsu M10-1 servers were selected to replace five Fujitsu PRIMEPOWER servers in FTBA's business-critical IT infrastructure. Oracle VM Server for SPARC (Logical Domain (LDM)) virtualization technology included in all Fujitsu M10 servers allowed FTBA to drastically simplify their IT infrastructure by consolidating both database and application layers onto a single server. The reduced complexity with the new architecture resulted in immediate benefits through reductions in capital expenses, energy consumption, and server footprint in the datacenter while realizing as much as 40 percent savings in operational expenses through easier system management and lower maintenance fees.

The benefit

- Improved quality and speed of service.
- Fujitsu M10-1 provided hardware cost savings of 50% with 40% lower maintenance fees compared to other SPARC servers.
- Lower energy usage, datacenter space, and costs by consolidation of application and database layers using Oracle VM Server for SPARC
- Reduced complexity with fewer servers and without the need for external storage.
- 50% lower energy usage and 90% less datacenter space compared to previous systems.
- Flexible scalability and capacity to meet future business needs.

Facing the upgrade of its existing software and hardware infrastructure, FTBA obtained the help of the Fujitsu Oracle Center of Excellence (FOrCE) team for a Proof of Concept (POC) on FOrCE's evaluation Fujitsu M10-1 servers. The FOrCE team provided guidance for the sizing and configuration of the new server infrastructure, accelerating application testing and implementation.

Committed to Oracle Solaris and SPARC technologies, FTBA considered Oracle SPARC T5 and Fujitsu M10 servers because of their reputation for having the highest levels of performance and stability.

Fujitsu M10-1 servers deliver scalable capacity and performance in a compact form-factor with enterprise-class reliability, availability, and serviceability for business critical operations. The Fujitsu M10-1 servers provide the lowest SPARC entry point and provide savings of as much as 50 percent of acquisition cost and up to 90 percent of space.

FTBA obtained further cost and space savings with the new simplified architecture using just three Fujitsu M10-1 servers covering Production, Test, Development and Disaster Recovery, down from five servers previously. This simplification was enabled by Oracle VM Server for SPARC virtualization technology included in all Fujitsu M10 servers, which allowed FTBA to consolidate both application and database layers on to a single server, reducing datacenter footprint and initial investments, and realize 40 percent savings in monthly maintenance costs.

"We evaluated several SPARC servers, but choosing the compact business-critical Fujitsu M10-1 servers cost us about 50 percent less, and we needed fewer servers to handle the same workload with ample spare capacity to grow further," said Bob Kung, IT project manager, Fujitsu Technology and Business of America. "Plus, the compact Fujitsu M10-1 server features an impressive 16 processor cores and superior price-performance. The Fujitsu M10 server's extremely large capacity also allowed us to consolidate the application and database layers for further savings on space, energy usage and monthly maintenance costs."

Products and Services

- Oracle E-Business Suite Release 12.2.4 (Financials, iProcurement, iExpense)
- Oracle Enterprise Asset Management (Oracle EAM)
- Oracle Database 12c
- Fujitsu M10-1 Servers
- Oracle VM Server for SPARC (Logical Domains)
- Oracle Solaris 11.2

The benefit

FTBA's new Fujitsu M10-based architecture eliminates the need for separate servers for the database and application tiers. The Fujitsu M10 servers allow FTBA to easily scale to accommodate business growth by simply increasing processor core counts with the unique core activation feature when extra capacity in either the database or application layer is needed. The Fujitsu M10-1 servers offer significant space and energy savings over previous systems.

"Our reputation as a service organization is very important to us, and delivering complete confidence to our customers is our primary goal." said Catherine Nice, Chief Financial Officer, FTBA. "The Fujitsu M10-1 servers not only give us business continuity, but they also offer superior price-performance that allow us to meet, and often exceed, expectations of our business users."

Conclusion

By virtualizing and consolidating the database and application layers for Oracle E-Business Suite deployment on to three Fujitsu M10-1 servers, FTBA was able to cut overall hardware acquisition costs by as much as 50 percent. The new simplified architecture with fewer servers and no external storage reduced the monthly maintenance fees by 40 percent with further savings on energy usage and space.

In collaboration with

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