HAGIHARA
HAGIHARA INDUSTRIES INC.

"When we found out that the Azure data centers are located in Japan, we were able to entrust our system and data with peace of mind."

Satoshi Fukuda
Information Systems Team
Hagihara Industries Inc.

Hagihara Industries has replaced its aging SAP and Windows Server OS platforms with a flexible Azure solution provided by Fujitsu which cuts costs and improves data backup

At a glance
Country: Japan
Industry: Manufacturing
Founded: 1962
Website: https://www.hagihara.co.jp/

Challenge
When Hagihara Industries' Windows Server 2008 Windows Server 2008 R2 OS and SAP ERP support ended, it needed to replace these core systems. It also wanted to improve core system data backups, which are done once a month on remotely stored tape media. However restoring is slow and data immediately preceding a disaster cannot be restored.

Solution
Hagihara Industries successfully created a future-oriented system infrastructure with high availability, scalability and reliability using Azure solutions proposed and provided by Fujitsu.

Benefit
■ By switching to Azure, the latest system infrastructure can always be used without worrying about hardware obsolescence

■ The costs of running Azure are lower than the total cost of maintaining its previous system infrastructure, which translates into cost savings

■ Deploying Azure Site Recovery cuts data backup costs as well as backup-to-recovery lead-time while allowing failback to the most recent data

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Customer

Hagihara Industries is headquartered in the Mizushima industrial complex, an industrial zone in the southern part of Kurashiki City in Okayama Prefecture. The company makes high-quality and high-value added sheet materials using "flat yarn" made from synthetic resins, "BarChip" which improve the durability of concrete by preventing peeling and cracking, liquid crystal films, "Slitter", lithium-ion battery separator films, and more.

Products and Services

- FUJITSU Cloud Service for Microsoft Azure
- SAP on Multi Cloud Service

Peace of mind with Azure

Hagihara Industries' mission critical system, which runs on SAP ERP packages built on-site, provided support for the company's sales and operations, however it was no longer supported. The company initially wanted to continue running its system on-site or use a housing service, but Fujitsu proposed using a cloud service.

Hagihara Industries Satoshi Fukuda, who was involved in the deployment, comments: "you have to replace hardware every few years, so we decided that it would be better to use a cloud service, which would allow us to always use the latest system infrastructure."

There were, however, some concerns about moving the on-site mission critical system to the cloud. "Fujitsu was able to clear up those concerns," says Mr Fukuda. "By giving us detailed descriptions of similar cases and taking us to visit companies which are running mission critical systems using Azure. One of our concerns was that we wouldn't know where the data centers were located if we used a foreign cloud service, but when we found out that the Azure data centers are located in Japan, we were given peace of mind."

The company was impressed with how smoothly the deployment went. Fujitsu and Hagihara Industries had a long relationship and Hagihara Industries had always used Fujitsu products for its system infrastructure. Fujitsu's familiarity therefore made things move quickly and helped save money.

It only took one day to perform the migration. This was possible not only because Fujitsu had made detailed preparations for carrying out the transfer, but also thanks to the company's extensive experience and expertise in switching many types of systems to Azure, and not just core operation systems like SAP. Fujitsu also provided a system allowing it to respond immediately in case anything happened at Hagihara Industries, by maintaining a Skype for Business line open for 72 hours between Hagihara Industries and Fujitsu's support base during the transfer.

Hagihara Industries also had a disaster recovery system in place, which made daily tape media backups, which were then stored in a different geographic location outside the main office once a month. This created several problems. First of all, the daily backups were slow and storage of the tape media required management. Secondly, it would be impossible to restore the most recent data in the event of a disaster occuring, and data recovery in general would take a long time. In response, Fujitsu recommended Azure Site Recovery (ASR), which would enable customer data to be stored in a geographically distributed manner between the two Azure data centers, one in western Japan and the other in eastern Japan.

Successfully saving money and effort

By switching to Azure, Hagihara Industries no longer needs to worry about hardware upgrades and has therefore been liberated from the burden of new investments and the labor involved. It has also ensured that it will have the computer resources needed when switching over to SAP S/4HANA in the future.

The costs of running Azure are also lower than the total cost of maintaining its previous system infrastructure, which translates into cost savings. The company has also been freed from having to run the system infrastructure, which was a significant burden.

Moreover, not only has it solved the problem of Windows Server 2008 R2 extended support coming to an end by using the latest system infrastructure in Azure, but the improved processing power of the system has translated into faster operations in many areas, some only taking one-third of the time it used to previously. BCP disaster measures have also been boosted by deploying ASR.

Integrating non-SAP servers under Azure

Hagihara Industries would like to use Azure not only for SAP but also for other purposes. Mr Sera comments that "we run our file servers separately for each department, for example, and would like to put them all on Azure for integrated management."

One of the biggest advantages of Azure is the fact that the same system and environment can be used all over the world, and for Hagihara Industries, this is a promising business infrastructure as it develops its global business and grows in the future.

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