

CASE STUDY

Core banking system upgraded with technology from Fujitsu

National Bank of Abu Dhabi invests in state-of-the-art IT

“The partnership with Fujitsu was excellent; the results were exactly what we imagined. In particular, we found the single point of contact very helpful.”

Strood Sherif, Chief Information Officer, National Bank of Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates



The challenge

IT agility – to stay on top of the ever-changing challenges, business needs and regulatory requirements in the world of finance

Advanced IT organisation – to build on a convincing Solaris operating system environment

Enhanced business continuity – to benefit from uninterrupted availability of bank-specific IT business processes

The Solution

Implementation of a state-of-the-art core banking system was one of the top priorities of the National Bank of Abu Dhabi (NBAD) when it adopted its strategy for the future. After all, it takes a strong IT infrastructure to achieve the agility required to deal with changes in business requirements as they occur. Scalable performance, absolute flexibility, maximum availability and reliable business-critical 24/7 operation are all absolutely essential. NBAD recognized the need for improvement in its IT environment and initiated an extensive upgrade project. Partnering with Fujitsu, the bank significantly boosted the performance of its core banking infrastructure. The new configuration is based on PRIMEPOWER systems, Intel-based PRIMERGY servers and SPARC Enterprise servers. This robust state-of-the-art technology platform now gives users maximum agility. And, last but far from least, on-site support is guaranteed.

The **National Bank of Abu Dhabi** is the # 01 bank in the United Arab Emirates. Founded in 1968, NBAD operates a network of 77 branches and maintains offices at the Abu Dhabi International Airport plus some 235 ATMs and Cash Deposit Machines as well as cash offices in remote areas of the country. For example, to serve customers on oil platforms and desert locations. NBAD customers also benefit from 24-hour Internet banking services and call centre support. More at: www.nbad.com

Solution components

- Core banking system: 3x high-end M8000 SPARC Enterprise servers, CPU and storage upgrade for PRIMEPOWER 900 enterprise servers, 6x PRIMERGY H450s, 11x SF T2000 servers, 2x PRIMERGY BX600 19-inch rack server systems, 24x PRIMERGY BX600s
- Software: Polaris
- Operating Systems: UNIX and Microsoft® Windows® 2003 server
- Database: Oracle

Customer benefits

- Robust core banking infrastructure
- Impressive compute power for Solaris-based bank application
- Significantly improved availability and security
- Single point of contact for fast support from Fujitsu services
- Long-term investment protection through the use of latest-generation technology

The project

Today's financial institutions find themselves confronted with a new paradigm. Competition for clients is no longer based exclusively on the quality of conditions. The expectations of the banking public have taken on a new dimension. In order to satisfy these ever-changing needs, modern banks must be able to anticipate developments before they occur, react with lightning speed and process unprecedented transaction volumes with minimal, if any, interruption. For example, they not only have to create and market new products in record time, but also have to provide seamless 24/7 access to services.

At the same time, they have to keep their operating costs to a minimum and achieve ongoing improvement in productivity. Obviously, that calls for a high-performance IT infrastructure. And that explains why the National Bank of Abu Dhabi's IT team headed by Chief Information Officer Srood Sherif decided to upgrade its core banking system.

The project included modernisation of the UNIX operating system environment running under Solaris, and the customer explicitly insisted upon state-of-the-art technology in order to be able to accommodate future growth. During the selection process, NBAD was impressed not only by the high quality of the products offered, but also by our credentials as a system integrator, and these two factors drove the decision to partner with Fujitsu. The customer was also convinced by the single point of contact set up by Fujitsu, which allowed a seamless transition to operational support upon completion of the project.

A record of success

"We chose Fujitsu for this project because this partnership gives us the technology that is important for the enhancement of our productivity and implementation of a high-performance core banking infrastructure," says Srood Sherif, CIO of the NBAD. Today, the NBAD runs its business processes on a powerful state-of-the-art platform based on a forward-looking approach to IT.

The upgraded core banking system gives NBAD the exceptional agility it takes to accommodate the changes in priorities that are inevitable in today's high-powered banking industry. In addition, the improvement in reliability is nothing less than impressive. This is especially the case since the customer now has a single point of contact to obtain support whenever necessary. This service, which is provided by Fujitsu, is designed to permit extremely fast reaction in order to keep unproductive downtime to an absolute minimum.

Contact

Fujitsu (FTS) Ltd.
Marketing Communications
Email: ukmarketing@ts.fujitsu.com
Phone: +44 (0) 1344 475000

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