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Tomonari Kinosita
IT Planning Department
ITOCHU ENEX.,LTD.



ITOCHU ENEX migrated its large-scale enterprise system to Fujitsu’s hybrid cloud, creating a flexible, scalable and responsive system with 30 percent cost savings.

At a glance

Country: Japan
Industry: Energy & Utilities
Founded: 1961
Website: itcenex.com

Challenge

ITOCHU ENEX wanted to avoid having to renew systems due to expired hardware warranty. It also wanted to flexibly optimize its infrastructure in response to changes in the business.

Solution

The company turned to long-term technology partner Fujitsu to introduce a hybrid-cloud solution that would enable the requisite scalability, reliability and performance. Fujitsu Cloud Service K5 is a next generation cloud platform, specifically created to enable efficient, easy and cost-effective enterprise level digital transformation.

Benefit

- Cloud-hosted environment enables continued use with no impact from warranty expiration
- Consolidating server requirements reduced costs by 30 percent
- Fujitsu Cloud Service K5 can scale up and down to meet demand
- Secure private communication line, and access to the data center, delivers a more available and reliable system

Customer

Since its foundation in 1961, ITOCHU ENEX has provided all regions of Japan with oil products and LP gas, supplying customers with energy essential for their daily lives. As well as creating energy for social infrastructure, providing energy to bring convenience to people's everyday lives is an important part of its philosophy. The company continues to supply the energy to meet each of its customers' needs, while responding to the changing requirements that emerge as the industry evolves.

Products and Services

- FUJITSU Cloud Service K5
- SPARC M10

Transitioning the enterprise to the cloud

Energy needs are changing – ecologically-friendly cars are becoming more popular, and energy liberalization is increasing. Dramatic changes are also occurring in the energy industry's make-up, such as the reorganization of primary distributors that undertake all aspects from import of crude oil through to sales.

"In recent years, the environment surrounding the energy industry has been undergoing a major transformation," explains Yoichi Namie, Head IT Planner, ITOCHU ENEX. "In such an environment, companies need to actively expand their business or undertake daring structural reform to achieve continuous growth."

When attempting to actively expand one's business, it is essential to have a platform which can adapt flexibly to changes in business structure.

"We have always wanted to use a system which is suitable for the current era," says Namie. "Various services in our daily lives make use of the cloud, so when Fujitsu suggested we shift our enterprise system to the K5 cloud we considered making the move, especially when we heard of its benefits in stability and cost performance."

Refreshing infrastructure can create a large financial burden, involving the purchase of new hardware and cost of system transfers. It also requires significant time and process investment to select new devices, before planning, then implementing their introduction. ITOCHU ENEX was looking for a system it could operate continuously, without having to repeatedly renew it on a regular basis.

"We wanted to reduce the costs involved with system operation, and utilize the latest technology without compromising reliability," adds Tomonari Kinoshita of the IT Planning Department.

Constructing a cloud-hosted hybrid with server attributes

ITOCHU ENEX deals with a huge amount of highly classified data, meaning Fujitsu had to thoroughly investigate all concerns about the system's overall composition and K5's functions and operations, and come up with the best possible solution. Ultimately, Fujitsu was able to propose a system which addressed all the company's challenges, including the cost advantages.

"The fact that they presented a roadmap to meet all of our challenges was a major part of our decision, but we also liked that Fujitsu could provide us with comprehensive support," comments Tomonari Kinoshita.

Considering the operation rate of cloud services and the status of resource sharing, it was decided that a hybrid cloud with K5 as the Web/AP server and M10 used as the hosting database server would be built, with all elements stored at the same data center.

"The reason we decided to put the Web/AP server in the cloud was because Fujitsu's proposal gave us the cost advantage, future expandability, and flexibility to deal with unexpected access congestion," continues Kinoshita.

The scalability element has relevance as the situation may arise where a virtual server must be expanded or reduced. In such cases, the cloud is very convenient as this can be performed automatically.

Meanwhile, it was decided that for the EDI servers, for which availability is prioritized, and database servers, for which processing capacity is prioritized, a hosting environment would be constructed because of the impact these servers can have on clients.

Consolidation and cost savings

By moving the company's existing environment to K5, the need for system renewals when hardware warranties run out has been eliminated. In addition, the number of servers has been consolidated to approximately three-quarters of the usual amount, allowing for system optimization which has succeeded in reducing monthly infrastructure costs by 30 percent.

"Fujitsu was able to decrease the number of servers we use and the usage costs for K5 are very reasonable, giving us maximum cost performance. I believe this has resulted in a dramatic drop in costs," says Kinoshita.

Furthermore, storing both the K5 and M10 servers at the same data center meant the company could use a secure private communication line, and access to the data center was enabled with a more available and reliable system. ITOCHU ENEX also intends to apply the system to strategies for disaster recovery to ensure the system is prepared to recover from any damage caused by external factors such as natural disasters.

"Fujitsu always listened to our opinions with sincerity, and came to the next meeting with a reworked proposal including our requested changes and with multiple patterns for us to choose from," remarks Kinoshita.

"The role that the cloud plays in business is only going to get bigger," concludes Namie. "We look forward to seeing the excellent systems Fujitsu will develop to help support our work."

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Contact a representative at: AskFujitsu@uk.fujitsu.com