

CASE STUDY

Standard Chartered pooled resources, repurposed as needed

“The Primergy platform is not a blade server. It’s an enterprise-class system, comparable to high-end RISC platforms, that runs x86 processors and three operating systems.”

Jan Verplancke, CIO Group Head Technology and Operations, Standard Chartered



Standard Chartered has cut total cost of ownership in half compared to a traditional x86 solution and can now bring a new country online in nine days rather than 45, as estimated for legacy architecture.

The challenge

One of the world's most international banks, with operations in more than 50 countries, Standard Chartered PLC selected the Primergy system for its core retail-banking application globally. This application, which runs IBM® WebSphere® and IBM DB2®, has the bank's highest classification for business criticality.

Fujitsu, Primergy's exclusive OEM alliance in EMEA, provided the systems, which it markets as the PRIMERGY BladeFrame® powered by Primergy. Atos Origin, Standard Chartered's IT provider, will implement the Primergy systems and provide ongoing support from its data centre in Asia.

Solution

Fujitsu's virtualisation and effective use of resources—and its customer-reference sites—were key differentiators compared to offerings from other providers. The Primergy solution met the bank's short-term cost-cutting needs while supporting its long-term, strategic vision of flexible and responsive data centre infrastructure.

“Our IT vision is based on a pool of computing resources that can be repurposed as needed based on business requirements,” says Jan Verplancke, CIO, Group Head Technology and Operations, Standard Chartered. He continues, “At the end of the day, the Primergy system was the lowest cost, lowest risk choice, providing the most flexibility. It's already helping us improve time-to-market and IT responsiveness, and will ultimately have a positive impact on revenues. Fujitsu has opened our eyes to a new way of thinking about the data centre.”

Solution components

- PRIMERGY BladeFrame® : which runs IBM® WebSphere® and IBM DB2®

Customer benefits

- IT flexibility and responsiveness
- Lower costs
- Faster time to market
- Low risk
- High Availability

The project

Standard Chartered considered deploying its retail-banking application in each office worldwide, including countries in Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Europe and the Americas. The sheer number of CPUs required for an in-country approach resulted in prohibitively high hardware and software-licensing costs. On the other hand, standard servers—even clustered white boxes—did not yield sufficient savings to compensate for the high telecommunications costs of a centralised scheme. “When you look at a virtualised environment, however, you start to get significant benefits that make centralisation the right approach,” says Verplancke.

“With Primergy, we cut total cost of ownership in half compared to a traditional x86 solution due to superior I/O and performance. We expect that ratio to improve still further as we get more countries up and running and can leverage the system’s repurposing capabilities across time zones.”

This ability to repurpose servers will also lower costs by increasing utilisation. “We have RISC platforms running at 100% for three to four hours each evening and literally doing nothing the rest of the day,” says Verplancke. “Because of their legacy architecture, which binds a server to a specific application, these machines cannot be repurposed for other tasks. Alternatively, Fujitsu’s virtualised architecture will enable us to do overnight batch processing on blades that handle transactions during the day.”

A record of success

“The Primergy platform is not a blade server. It’s an enterprise-class system, comparable to high-end RISC platforms, that runs x86 processors and three operating systems,” concludes Verplancke. “Before Primergy, we were unable to source hardware at the high end of the stack that supported multiple environments. Instead, we were locked into proprietary platforms to meet the requirements of our mission-critical applications. The Fujitsu system delivers a truly unique combination of resiliency, cost-effectiveness and flexibility, ideally suited to our vision for the future.”

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