



## Case Study: Investment Bank Better performance at one-fourth the cost

### Business Value

- TCO reduced by 75 percent
- Floor space reduced by 80 percent
- Server consolidation from 20 to four
- Provisioning from three weeks to minutes
- 8x performance improvement
- N+1 disaster recovery

### Executive Summary

To improve operating efficiencies and enhance client services, this leading investment bank is using the Egenera® BladeFrame® system to drive its global order-routing architecture, a business-critical application accessed by thousands of users worldwide that processes some 20 million transactions per day. Results include server consolidation, better performance and total cost of ownership one-fourth that of proprietary RISC Unix systems.

### Business Challenge

As an industry leader in leveraging technology to automate business processes, this investment bank was experiencing a steady increase in the servers required to host applications and the administrators needed to manage these systems. With datacenter space at a premium, and qualified personnel increasingly scarce and expensive, the answer to reducing both capital and operational costs was server consolidation. The bank set out to find an Intel®-based solution running Linux® that wouldn't sacrifice the security, availability and manageability needed for mission-critical applications.

### BladeFrame Solution

The customer evaluated the BladeFrame against legacy systems and found that an application requiring 20 RISC Unix servers could be deployed on just four Egenera Processing Blade™ modules. Overall, the processing, switching and networking capabilities housed in a single BladeFrame replace five racks of legacy hardware.

Moreover, provisioning and configuration tasks that require three weeks or more with traditional servers are performed in just minutes on the Egenera system, enabling IT to accommodate growth and launch new applications in a timeframe never before possible. In the time it takes to install a single legacy server, an entire BladeFrame chassis—with its 24 Processing Blades—can be provisioned. Simplifying server deployment allows developers to focus on strategic initiatives, which means the bank can respond more quickly to business opportunities.

Performance improvements in the form of higher transaction-processing rates have also been documented compared to legacy servers: An Egenera Processing Blade can handle one million expression evaluations per second compared to just 120,000 per second on a RISC Unix platform. Moreover, with the BladeFrame's built-in interconnect and high-speed switches, server-to-server communication never leaves the box—which means significant gains in I/O performance and very low latencies.

*“Competitive advantage is about agility, about how quickly you can adapt to change. Being able to not only meet but anticipate customer expectations—and deliver new products ahead of the competition—is crucial to our success. The BladeFrame helps us adapt to change faster, giving us a powerful advantage in a highly competitive market.”*

*Chief Technology Officer*

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### The Value of Virtualization

IT management characterizes the BladeFrame as “a new way of providing a generalized hosting facility for applications.” The system can be divided into multiple partitions, each supporting a unique business service. At the same time, spare blades for failover and additional capacity are pooled and accessible to every application, significantly reducing the amount of hardware that must be deployed. Since clustering is built into the Egenera system, “configuring scalability and high availability is no longer a major systems engineering project for every application,” in the words of one IT professional.

Likewise, the BladeFrame’s virtualized architecture enables N+1 disaster recovery (DR), wherein multiple production systems share a single backup machine. Leveraging the interoperability between the BladeFrame, EMC’s Symmetrix® enterprise storage systems and EMC Symmetrix Remote Data Facility (SRDF™) business-continuation software, the bank is meeting its DR requirements through implementation across multiple regional datacenters.

### The Bottom Line

Overall, the bank found the price/performance of the BladeFrame significantly better than other high-end platforms. A TCO analysis revealed that the Egenera system, once fully configured, delivers better performance at one-fourth the cost of RISC-based SMP machines with their necessary additional external network and storage switches. At a price point comparable to standalone Intel servers, the BladeFrame provides built-in clustering, built-in high availability, remote management and other enterprise-class features. With its first application, the firm saved over \$900,000 in hardware and software costs alone and expects to save millions as more applications are deployed.



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