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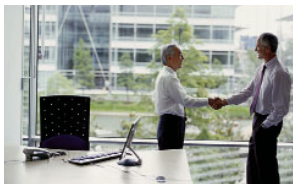

Case Study: MEW-IS

Consolidation, HA and DR

Business Value

- Server Consolidation
- High Availability
- Disaster Recovery
- Scalability

Executive Summary

MEW-IS has chosen the Egenera® BladeFrame® system to consolidate servers and reduce floor-space requirements. Along with consolidation, the BladeFrame is delivering superior high availability and disaster recovery. Applications running on the Egenera platform include an order-processing service for the manufacturing industry, a content delivery system and Electronic Data Interchange (EDI). Based on proven results, MEW-IS has designated the Egenera BladeFrame its standard system for mission-critical processing.

"The Egenera system was definitely superior to other platforms when it comes to high availability and disaster recovery. Ultimately, we plan to migrate all applications to the Egenera BladeFrame."

Hiroshi Yagi
Server Solution Division
Corporate IDC Solution Division
MEW-IS

Business Challenge

A leading Japanese service provider to a variety of industries, Matsushita Electric Works Information Systems Co., Ltd. (MEW-IS) chose the Egenera BladeFrame system to consolidate servers and reduce floor-space requirements. With 700 of a projected 2,000 open-system servers installed in the facility that supports its rapidly growing Internet Data Center (IDC) offerings—and space already at a premium—management realized that a new architecture was required.

"We needed a server that could meet our requirements for performance, availability and advanced features in the least amount of floor space," recalls Hiroshi Yagi, Server Solution Division, Corporate IDC Solution Division, MEW-IS. "So we evaluated a variety of systems, including rack-mount and blade servers, from Japanese vendors and even overseas startups."

Toshihide Fukusako, Director, Server Solution Division, Corporate IDC Solution Division, MEW-IS, agrees. "At the time we were evaluating Egenera, server consolidation was not yet widespread. However, reducing our datacenter footprint by consolidating servers was our number one challenge. After comparing a great number of systems on all possible criteria, we chose the Egenera BladeFrame."

Other Egenera Benefits

Along with consolidation, the BladeFrame offered superior high availability and disaster recovery. "When you're operating and managing a large number of servers with limited staff, failures become more likely," Mr. Yagi notes. "So it was essential for us to source a platform that delivered rapid disaster recovery with as little intervention as possible."

In the event of a failure, the Egenera system moves applications to a backup resource, which automatically assumes ongoing processes. According to Mr. Yagi, recovery takes just minutes. "The Egenera system was definitely superior to other platforms when it comes to high availability and disaster recovery," he confirms.

Standardizing on Egenera

Another challenge faced by Mr. Fukusako and his team was organizational. At MEW-IS, development and operations are separate groups. With developers free to specify virtually any hardware, operating systems, middleware and databases, the number and variety of platforms to be managed was constantly expanding. Meanwhile, constrained by a small staff, operations was finding it difficult to keep pace.

The solution was selecting standard platforms for company-wide use. Based on its consolidation, scalability and availability features, the Egenera BladeFrame has been designated by MEW-IS as its standard system for mission-critical processing.

Multiple Applications

The first application MEW-IS migrated to the BladeFrame is a large-scale order-processing service for the manufacturing industry. Running on 45 Egenera Processing Blade™ modules, this application stores and forwards order transactions among manufacturers, distributors and customers through a common Web interface.

As recently as four years ago, only a few thousand terminals were attached to the order-processing system. Today, that number has risen into the tens of thousands. With growth continuing to escalate rapidly, the BladeFrame systems running the application were provisioned to easily scale to accommodate more than 100,000 terminals.

Along with order processing, MEW-IS runs a content-delivery system—which delivers product information and other data to construction companies and design offices—on the BladeFrame. Likewise, a gateway that enables data integration with EDI systems is running on Egenera.

MEW-IS is also planning to offer new BladeFrame-based services—such as hosting for large-scale, mission-critical applications—to a broader swath of its customer base. Says Mr. Yagi, "Ultimately, we plan to migrate all applications to the Egenera BladeFrame."

About Matsushita Electric Works Information Systems Co., Ltd.

Matsushita Electric Works Information Systems Co., Ltd. (MEW-IS) was established as a subsidiary of Matsushita Electric Works, Ltd. in February 1999. MEW-IS, a cutting edge technology company specialized in information system services, has long supported Matsushita's information systems powerfully and accumulated extensive track records, know-how and advanced technologies. From consulting to full-time maintenance for information systems, MEW-IS is dedicated to provide customers with delicate and customer-centric services. www.naisis.co.jp/

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