



Case Study: Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group

Business Value

- Server consolidation
- N+1 failover
- Flexibility
- Scalability
- Security
- Virtualization

Executive Summary

MUFG's Comprehensive Financial Platform centralizes IT infrastructure and runs more than 50 applications on five Egenera BladeFrame systems. Whether large or small, MUFG business units all benefit from the mission-critical services and capabilities Egenera has built into its architecture.

Business Challenge

Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group, Inc., (MUFG) a premier, global firm providing a variety of financial services, has centralized the transactions of its banking, securities and other businesses on a common datacenter infrastructure referred to as its Comprehensive Financial Platform. MUFG promotes use of the Platform among its companies as a way to more efficiently develop applications and manage IT resources. It was deployed by UFJIS, an MUFG company that supports financial-information systems.

More than 50 applications are running on the Platform, which operates within MUFG as an Application Service Provider (ASP) business based on J2EE technology. Large-scale applications deployed include corporate, trading and security systems; subsystems include an authentication infrastructure.

"To play a role in our Comprehensive Financial Platform, a solution must be superior in robustness, reliability, security and flexibility," says Satoshi Hamamoto, General Manager, Group IT Platforms Dept., UFJIS. "The Egenera BladeFrame has enabled us to consolidate servers for a more efficient operation. Likewise, its unique N+1 failover has decreased the effort and costs of ongoing operations."

Egenera Benefits: Flexibility, Scalability, Availability

MUFG companies vary widely in size and computing needs. Therefore, the Platform has to flexibly and cost-effectively accommodate requirements ranging from large-scale systems to relatively small applications. Deployed on five Egenera BladeFrame systems running Linux®, the Platform provides "out of the box" infrastructure for application and database servers. The standard configuration made available to MUFG companies consists of three application servers and two database servers, ensuring availability. Business applications are then built on these combined resources.

"Regardless of size, each MUFG system must be highly reliable, robust, available and secure," says Mr. Hamamoto. "However, providing these enterprise-class features on small, standalone systems is expensive. With the BladeFrame as our common infrastructure, every application benefits from the mission-critical services and capabilities Egenera has built into its architecture—at no added cost."

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General Manager
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MUFG also values the scalability of the BladeFrame system. When a clustered application suddenly required more peak performance, UFJIS personnel simply inserted more Egenera Processing Blade™ modules into the chassis and copied the application to the new blades. According to Shingo Osaka, Senior Manager, Group IT Platforms Dept., UFJIS, “With legacy servers, we would have had to perform a series of complex tasks for every new machine in the cluster, including cabling, network configuration, configuring the clustering software and reconfiguring the application.”

Vertical scaling is just as simple. “When an application needs more CPU capacity, migrating it to a more powerful Processing Blade is easy,” says Mr. Osaka. “This ability to easily enhance system performance is one of the most attractive operational benefits we’ve experienced.”

Finally, because financial systems handle mission-critical transactions, any breakdown can result in huge losses—making high availability imperative. “We tested the BladeFrame against products from several other vendors to determine how quickly each could recover from a failure,” explains Yasunori Aoyama, Senior Manager, Group IT Platforms Dept., UFJIS. “Because its PAN Manager™ software virtualizes processing resources, Egenera failed over far more quickly than any other system. Moreover, while other servers required us to install separate cluster software, the BladeFrame has easy, built-in clustering. Overall, the Egenera BladeFrame has great advantages over other products—advantages we’re benefiting from today in our production operation.”

Next Steps

In Q406, Egenera announced the availability of Egenera vBlade™ software, which integrates the Xen™ hypervisor with PAN Manager software to provide a single environment for configuring, allocating, repurposing and managing both physical and virtual resources running on the BladeFrame system. A vBlade is a partition of an Egenera Processing Blade (pBlade™) that specifies CPU and memory capacity for a virtual machine. As many as 32 vBlades can run on a single pBlade.

MUFG plans to adopt this BladeFrame functionality and to share vBlades across applications just as pBlades can be shared today. “Egenera’s virtualization technology stays one step ahead of other vendors’, ensuring the high reliability needed for mission-critical financial services,” Mr. Hamamoto concludes.



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