STAYING FOCUSED ON FLEXIBILITY

Chugai keeps ahead of changing customer needs by continued workplace transformation

Business needs

Chugai needed to refresh its virtualized desktop infrastructure, including the underlying multi-tiered storage platform that the company found expensive to scale. The company wanted a solution that not only met the limitations of the data center but enabled continued expansion to support business growth.

Solutions at a glance

- Software-Defined Storage
- Servers
- Networking
- Enterprise Deployment
- Enterprise Support

Business results

- Continued workplace transformation enables constant evolution
- Simplified workplace deployment maximizes IT efficiency
- 30% reduction in cost of ownership for virtualized environment
- 40% greater cost-effectiveness than competing solutions
- Lowered cost of storage by moving to software-defined solution
- Consolidation of existing virtualized workplace infrastructure

30% reduction in cost of ownership

40% more cost-effective than competing solutions
Chugai has manufactured automobile parts and sold electronic equipment since 1970. In that time, the organization’s product and sales portfolio has evolved in line with new technologies. For instance, with the growing adoption of electric vehicles, Chugai has looked to redesign the parts it makes to reduce noise and dissipate heat around automobile engines.

Desktop virtualization proves successful

To ensure that Chugai has the capability to attain new opportunities, the company has invested in its desktop environment. Only with fast and reliable access to data can staff help Chugai achieve the level of flexibility it needs. To this end, the organization virtualized its desktop environment with VMware. At first, just over half of Chugai staff had access to the virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI). Soon that became the vast majority of staff, including employees in branch offices across the U.S. and Thailand.

The need to improve the VDI

The moment came when Chugai needed to refresh the hardware supporting the VDI’s backend infrastructure. As part of this, however, the company also needed to expand the VDI’s storage to support the continued growth of end users. The problem was that the storage environment, which consisted of three tiers, was costly and expensive to scale. What’s more, Chugai sought to further streamline IT support processes. If there were hardware issues at any of the company’s 12 locations in Japan, an IT support engineer still had to be dispatched to resolve the issue onsite.

Chugai discussed its challenges with the Chubu Telecommunications Company, which manages the Chugai data center, and VMware. Based on the talks, Chugai looked to deploy a hyper-converged infrastructure (HCI) featuring VMware vSAN at the new data center site. Tadashi Takahashi, Manager of the System Administration Office at Chugai, says, “With an HCI running Dell EMC VMware vSan Ready Nodes, we could increase the number of users without having to add expensive storage.”

40% more cost-effective than competing solutions

Chugai looked at HCI solutions from leading vendors including Dell EMC, with which it had a long-standing relationship. The company chose the Dell EMC VMware vSan Ready Nodes with Dell EMC PowerEdge R630 servers, featuring Intel® Xeon® E5-2600 v4 processors. At the time, VMware was already part of Dell Technologies, enabling the Dell EMC team to present a single-vendor solution and giving Chugai stakeholders increased confidence. Takahashi says, “Our evaluation showed that the Dell EMC HCI solution with PowerEdge servers not only met our VDI requirements but was up to 40 percent more cost-effective than other vendor solutions.”

“We believe the Dell EMC HCI infrastructure will consume 30 percent less resources than previous infrastructure.”

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Simplified deployment maximizes IT efficiency

To maximize implementation efficiency, Chugai worked with ProDeploy services. The company chose ProDeploy Plus for Enterprise, which includes services such as a site readiness review, onsite racking and stacking, and material disposal. It also includes installation, configuration and data migration services. The ProDeploy team installed four Dell EMC VMware vSan Ready Nodes with PowerEdge servers along with 10-gigabit Dell EMC Networking S4048T-ON switches and Dell EMC Networking N1524 switches. The team also combined the environment with existing Dell EMC iSCSI storage for additional capacity.

Mitsuo Nakamura, Account SE Group, Industry Business Unit, Solution Sales Division, Chubu Telecommunications, says, “With the help of ProDeploy, the install process went smoothly. We did all migration work during a one-week period, but the actual downtime was during a single weekend.”

Workplace transformation drives success

Chugai is driving business development by the continued transformation of its workplace environment. With the Dell EMC VMware vSan Ready Nodes in place, it has the capacity to scale its VDI—extending the number of virtualized applications to include its computer-aided design (CAD) software. Takahashi says, “We have migrated nearly all employees to the VDI based on Dell EMC VMware vSan Ready Nodes. We are considering the migration of our CAD environment to the VDI so personnel can access the software in a more flexible way. For example, staff with notebooks could connect to the VDI from customer offices and work alongside customers on CAD drawings in real time. The whole design process can be more effective and efficient.” In addition, if a notebook is lost, nothing is compromised because data is all held centrally in the data center. What is more, Chugai is now in a better position to support more flexible ways of working. Comments Takahashi, “It is important to provide an environment that allows working from home.”
Lowered cost of storage by moving to software-defined solution

Chugai can scale the VDI environment at much lower cost since moving to a software-defined storage solution. The company has removed the expensive three-tiered storage infrastructure supporting the VDI—replacing it with Dell EMC VMware vSan Ready Nodes where the storage is provided by the Dell EMC PowerEdge servers. Takahashi says, “We can add storage capacity using Dell EMC servers, which are more cost-effective than our previous storage infrastructure.”

30% reduction in cost of ownership for virtualized environment

The company is also reducing the expense of its VDI through the refresh of the backend infrastructure and a move to the latest VMware server virtualization software. “Because of the new VMware vSphere ESXi 6.5 hypervisor, we believe the Dell EMC HCI infrastructure will consume 30 percent less resources than previous infrastructure while reducing workloads,” says Takahashi. He adds that Chugai is now looking to migrate from Windows 7 to Windows 10, which will increase the efficiency of its hardware resources.

Consolidation and greater ease of management

Chugai has significantly reduced the footprint of its VDI infrastructure by moving to an HCI. It has also simplified management, as Nakamura explains: “In the past, they had to check the control tools for the servers and the storage, but with the Dell EMC HCI, the servers and storage come as one, making the job simpler.”