

Turnkey Project Delivery

OVERVIEW



PM-Partners were asked to manage a project aiming to drive efficiencies of computing resources and business processes in a financial organization through the **rationalisation of core computing systems and storage infrastructure**.

The business issue: the Bank for some time has been approaching the physical capacity ceiling of its core data centre in London. In addition it has maximised the life expectancy of its core infrastructure to full potential, much of this equipment being fully depreciated and more than 3 years old.

The Bank engaged PM-Partners in partnership with Union Solutions to assist with the analysis and provide recommendations on how best to resolve the infrastructure challenges, and to manage the delivery of the virtualization and data center consolidation.

CUSTOMER PROFILE

- Major Services: An international specialist banking group that provides a diverse range of financial products and services to a niche client base
- Global presence: three principal markets, the United Kingdom, South Africa and Australia, as well as certain other geographies
- Assets under management of over £50 billion
- Operating profit before tax in 2008 of over £500 million

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- ✚ Through a process of aggregating physical assets and virtualising logical application and service platforms, the Bank was aiming to build a service oriented infrastructure model which dramatically increased IT asset utilisation.
- ✚ Create virtual machines within an existing aggregated infrastructure and reduce development time and service commissioning delays.
- ✚ Enhance functionality of the technology to enable a higher level of disaster recovery service to be delivered at levels of affordability that will extend protection service levels to a wider IT user audience.

KEY DELIVERABLES

Server Virtualisation

The virtualisation and migration of selected physical candidates to the new infrastructure.

Physical Server Consolidation

The provision of high powered computing hosts and storage services to accommodate the consolidation of Exchange and SQL application platforms. The upgrade of existing physical hosts to more functional or scalable hardware resources made available as a result of the virtualisation of their original platform residents.

Centralised Storage

Delivery of a fully configured storage area network and associated storage repositories in line with I/O, performance, and lifecycle management needs.

Enhanced Backup

Delivery of a new VTL based backup infrastructure utilising both SAN and LAN data paths and embracing all existing backup clients.

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KEY DELIVERABLES (CONTINUED)

Archive

Introduced a file system utilising scalable cost effective long-term storage repository.

Cross Site Replication & High Availability Features

Designed and implemented the solutions which support the communication of HA functions and the replication of data in line with RTO and RPO service classes.

Automation

Delivered a fully automated approval, commissioning, and retirement process for virtual machines.

Related Works

Data Centre Survey in power and floor loading requirements for both datacentres.

Identified the cause of the existing Inter-Site Communications Issues, reported on their possible resolution.

Migration to Exchange 2007: this project was managed by the Bank's abroad division with intention of migrating all users to Exchange 2007 globally.

PMPARTNERS ROLE IN THE PROJECT

PMPartners provided:

- ✚ Overall project management.
- ✚ Planning and scheduling.
- ✚ Management of execution team.
- ✚ Proactive risk management and issues resolution.
- ✚ Governance structure.
- ✚ Management of complex multivendor environment.
- ✚ Communication with stakeholders at all levels.

CUSTOMER BENEFITS

Improved business efficiency:

- Increase in average processor utilisation of the Bank's existing distributed infrastructure is projected from 6% to over 60%, and storage utilisation – from 40% to over 75%.

Reduced cost:

- IT footprint within the datacentre is reduced, releasing space for future expansion and avoiding the cost of either sourcing third party datacentre space, or expanding its own.

Reduced risks:

- Replacing the existing obsolete equipment increases reliability of these systems.

Improved Service:

- By creating a catalogue of service classes business units are able to ensure the service they choose best suits their requirements.
- This delivers cost transparency and a more joined up dialogue between IT and the business thus ensuring IT services are better aligned to business need.

Environmental Friendly

- Power consumption will also be significantly reduced.