Financial Technologies
Creating Markets. Unlocking Value.™

"Virtualization strategies could boost the functional capabilities of our datacenter without significant impact on operational and infrastructure expenditure. We wanted a solution that provided reliability, efficiency, flexibility and security. No other solution was strong enough to contend with VMware's offering."

— Keshav Samant
  VP & Head, Information Technology
  Financial Technologies (India) Ltd

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Challenge
To support a rapidly growing business, Financial Technologies needed to maximize datacenter space and improve hardware utilization. This would avoid the need to invest in new hardware and real estate in one of the world's costliest cities.

Solution
The VMware virtual infrastructure delivered significant hardware, maintenance and real estate cost savings, eased the management task, extended storage capacity, improved CPU utilization and shortened server provisioning times.

VMWare at Work
VMware vSphere 4, featuring:
• Distributed Resource Scheduler (DRS)
• High Availability (HA)
• VMotion
• Thin Provisioning

Deployment environment
• ESX 4.0 on two Sun 4600 M2 servers with eight quad-core AMD Opteron 8356 processors and 256GB RAM
• NetApp 2050 FC SAN with 99TB of storage
• Guest operating systems: Microsoft Windows 2000, Microsoft Windows 2003, Microsoft Windows XP
• Virtualized production applications: Web applications, HR payroll, customer relationship management, Microsoft SQL Server, antivirus admin, SAP development, SAP quality, software test and development and ODIN Manager

Financial Technologies (India) Ltd

Financial Technologies India Ltd (FTIL) is among the global leaders in offering technology IP and domain expertise to create and trade on next-generation financial markets (exchanges). It owns and operates 10 international financial exchanges across Africa, the Middle East, India and South East Asia. FTIL offers end-to-end brokerage, exchange and messaging Straight Through Processing (STP) solutions that support high-density transactions and cover all stages of a trade lifecycle — pre-trade, trade and post-trade. FTIL's front-end trading technology, ODIN™, is the No. 1 brokerage solution in India, controlling over 80 percent market share with 400,000 licenses and 100,000 trading workstations servicing 1,000 institutions and brokerage clients, including the top 30 banks in India.

Over the past few years, FTIL's diversified businesses have grown rapidly, straining the infrastructure capacity of the company's three datacenters and numerous server rooms. As Mumbai real estate is among the world's most expensive, FTIL wanted to maximize its existing datacenter space rather than build a new facility. It also wanted to make better use of its hardware after an internal study found the average server CPU utilization was just 7–8 percent. After realizing virtualization would enable it to address these challenges, FTIL considered solutions from Citrix and Microsoft before selecting VMware®. "The VMware product had already gone through one lifecycle so it was more established," said Keshav Samant, VP & Head – IT, FTIL. "No other solution was strong enough to contend with VMware's offering."

VMware Partner Pentagon System and Services was engaged to manage the VMware implementation. Pentagon analyzed the utilization patterns of servers, scoped out the requirements and undertook a proof-of-concept. Non-critical applications were migrated first until FTIL was satisfied that the virtual platform delivered the stability and performance required for more critical applications. Today, the company is running 100 virtual servers on two physical hosts and has a 'virtualize first' policy wherever possible.

The VMware solution has delivered a raft of benefits for FTIL. The ability to provision a new virtual server in 15 minutes allowed the company to continue an SAP deployment overnight ahead of a training session in the morning. The virtual environment is also easier to maintain as staff can use a single console to monitor and manage the infrastructure. "VMware VMotion eases the maintenance task by allowing us to move servers from one physical host to another," said Samant. "It also allows us to quickly shift virtual machines in the event of a hardware malfunction. It is a fantastic feature for an IT team to have."

Results

• Cut server provisioning time from four to five hours to 15 minutes

• Achieved a server consolidation ratio of 50:1 with provision for more

• Saved on real estate costs and freed space in the datacenter for other uses

• Increased CPU utilization from 7–8% to 65–70% and extended storage capacity by up to 3TB

• Achieved significant savings by reducing hardware and maintenance costs

• Supported a growing business that demands high performance and availability

vmware® PSSPL

CUSTOMER SNAPSHOT