recarta
intelligent IT solutions

FORTIS BANKS ON RECARTA
FORTIS GROUP SERVICES LIMITED

"At Fortis, we pride ourselves on being trustworthy, innovative and proactive. With Recarta IT we have found a supplier and partner that mirrors these values."

Jason Sarre, Senior Systems Integrator, Fortis (CI) Ltd.

CLIENT PROFILE

Fortis (CI) Limited is a private wealth management company offering banking, investment and fund management, taxation advice, trust and corporate services. Based in Guernsey, and established in 1900,
Fortis is now part of the Fortis Group, a major international AA-rated financial services provider.

THE CHALLENGE

Fortis needed to enhance the performance of its Globus banking system and move away from previous generation IBM pSeries servers.
It wanted to increase business processing times and reduce both hardware maintenance costs as well as the total cost of ownership of its hardware infrastructure over a three year period.

The company required a robust, scalable server solution that would integrate seamlessly into its existing Storage Area Network. As a time critical global banking business, it was crucial the transition to a new server system was also as smooth as

BUSINESS BENEFITS

TCO was reduced, improved efficiency from improved processing response times, improved system manageability, better security though improved system resilience, increased customer satisfaction

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possible to minimise any downtime and ensure Fortis could maintain its highly responsive customer service in its fund management and banking operations.

THE STRATEGY

Recarta IT started the process by consulting with Fortis to clearly understand the company's key objectives, technology requirements, budget and the key factors that would influence the final decision on the technology and supplier it would appoint. Using its extensive experience of IT systems in the finance and banking sector, Recarta IT was able to then undertake a comprehensive performance analysis of the company's existing IT infrastructure.

This included:

- processing performance
- server and supporting hardware resilience
- current limits on scalability
- total cost of ownership
- potential integration issues
- impact and management of any downtime
- assessment of environmental factors including costs associated with power consumption and heat dissipation

THE RECARTA SOLUTION

Recarta IT designed and installed a solution built around four IBM P55A Servers with connectivity to the existing IBM DS4500 SAN infrastructure, also previously installed by Recarta. The IBM P55A Server was selected as it could be easily integrated within the current Fortis infrastructure and supported the same level of AIX operating system, removing the risk of data loss and incompatibility during the data migration.

The P55A allows for the addition of multiple I/O and can support up to eight processors and 64GB of memory in a small 5U Rack location. With RAS features including Chipkill Memory and redundant power, the 55A offers near perfect pick up time.

Key benefits:

- 100 percent increase in hardware performance
- seamless transition to the new system ensuring connectivity and data were not affected
- highly scalable design for future growth
- Using AIX ensures easy onsite or remote maintenance and functionality
- three years' inclusive hardware and operating system support and more competitive than the renewal of the existing support contract

SOLUTION OVERVIEW

Hardware

4 x 9133 55A 8-way System P Servers
4 x EXP810 Storage Array

Software

AIX 5.3

Services

Design, planning, supply and installation of all hardware and software
Three-year hardware support

THE RESULT

The installation of the new Recarta IT system at Fortis was a complete success and the results speak for themselves:

- a significant improvement in processing times across all departments
- increased system performance which has reduced Fortis's end-of-day batch run by over 60 percent
- no support charges, enabling Fortis to budget more effectively
- improved server resilience giving Fortis greater business continuity
- customer satisfaction up due to more efficient, proactive and effective customer servicing

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