Hewlett Packard Enterprise

Case Study

大和総研ビジネス・イノベーション
Daiwa Institute of Research Business Innovation

Daiwa Institute of Research Business Innovation moves datacenter successfully

HPE Services transport multi-vendor environment on budget and schedule

Objective
Safely relocate multiple mission critical business systems from old datacenter to new location

Approach
After a great deal of study, customer decided to contract everything to a single vendor with knowledge in the area of large scale system relocation

IT Matters
- Conducted an on-site investigation to obtain an accurate grasp of the system to be relocated
- Handled time restrictions and a complex multi-vendor environment by establishing a relocation plan that made the most of best practices
- Delivered total support from planning to work relocation

Business Matters
- Minimized risks using a carefully developed relocation plan
- Minimized the risk involved in relocation burden with uniform handling of the multi-vendor environment
- Undertook fewer transportation trips, lower costs, and shortened time with uniform management of relocation work

Daiwa Institute of Research Business Innovation, a solutions vendor of Daiwa Institute of Research Group, needed to relocate and consolidate its existing system assets to a new datacenter location. It minimized the relocation cost and time by utilizing HPE Relocation Services to safely and reliably relocate multiple business systems of multiple vendors including mission-critical systems.

Challenge

Datacenter move
Daiwa Institute of Research Business Innovation provides a range of IT services to external customers except Daiwa Securities Group. Using leading-edge technology, these include system consulting, integration, and operating services at datacenters. Daiwa Institute of Research Business Innovation also has an impressive track record in finance, distribution, and communication sectors.

Daiwa Institute of Research Business Innovation Ltd. planned to relocate its datacenter in the Tokyo metropolitan area to a suburban location equipped with state of the art facilities.

"Using the opportunity of moving to a new datacenter, we decided to push forward with innovations for the datacenter itself," says Director of Systems Architecture Design & Engineering Dept., Itsuro Kamei. "First, we

"HPE has a track record of building and operating large scale, mission critical systems. It also offers expertise and experience with relocation in a multi-vendor environment involving new construction and modification of datacenters. We focused on the fact that the methodology HPE obtained from doing its own datacenter integration on a global scale is incorporated in HPE Relocation Services"

— Itsuro Kamei, Director, Systems Architecture Design & Engineering Department, Systems Management Division, Daiwa Institute of Research Business Innovation Ltd.

decided to build a virtual infrastructure to quickly provide a system environment that matches customer needs."

With a virtualized system infrastructure, setting up of the system environment can be accelerated dramatically. By putting an end to localized focus and advancing standardization, system administration becomes more efficient, and it is possible to reduce operating costs.

Daiwa's aim was to build a consolidated infrastructure that uses the latest virtualization technology at the start of 2011. However, not all of the systems inside the old datacenter were going to be integrated into this consolidated infrastructure.

"Among the systems from customers, there was a large number of business information systems and systems that play a role as social infrastructure," explains Kamei. "With service continuity and reliability taking priority, we decided to operate these as independent systems rather than consolidate them through virtualization."

The main hurdle then was how to perform the relocation of multiple mission-critical systems.

"Some people thought that we should let the vendors of each respective system handle this, but relocating each individual system separately would make it difficult to manage the overall time schedule, and the costs would increase," says Yoshihide Fujita, Director of Systems Architecture Design & Engineering Dept.

"After a great deal of study, we decided to contract everything to a single vendor with knowledge in the area of large scale system relocation."

They chose HPE, which had played an important role in building the consolidated infrastructure of the new datacenter. They decided to use HPE Relocation Services in August 2011, and started their large scale relocation project.

Solution

Datacenter relocation knowledge
The services were provided based on HPE's abundant past experience and track record, but received another boost in April 2011. Kamei says: "We were impressed with HPE's relocation work knowledge that they accumulated over many years."

"We were impressed with HPE's relocation work knowledge, accumulated over many years," adds Kamei. "HPE had a track record of building and operating large scale, mission critical systems and also had many years of experience with relocations in a multi-vendor environment involving new construction and modification of datacenters."

There were high expectations for the personnel, knowledge and relocation methods of HPE, which had reliably and safely performed relocations to large scale multi-vendor environments.

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Industry
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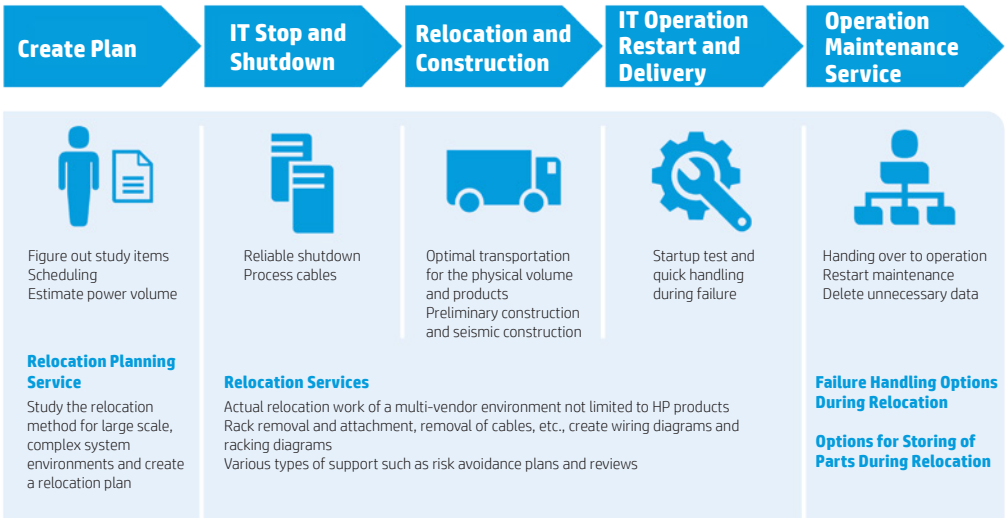

"When the project started, HPE's specialists started from the relocation plan creation stage, and offered practical advice such as figuring out items that needed to be studied. This was very beneficial," says Shinichi Nakayama, Associate Director of Systems Service Management Department, who was project leader on the Daiwa side.

Yukinobu Hayakawa, who supported project administration on the HPE side adds: "To create an accurate relocation plan, it was first necessary to accurately grasp the structure and the physical volume of the systems that required relocation. In that sense, the on-site investigation was very important work."

The on-site investigation was performed at weekends and nights, avoiding work hours. The HPE staff listed items from the physical configuration of the server/storage system groups, to power supplies, networks, and the vast quantities of cables connected to the devices. The system configuration information was obtained in advance but there were many cases when expansion and modifications were not reflected in that.

"To understand the current system configuration in detail, our HPE staff did a thorough on-site investigation and gave feedback," says Hayakawa.

To create a relocation plan, they made use of the survey sheet provided by HPE and with Nakayama in a central role, they co-ordinated the people in charge of development and operations for each system to establish the time schedule and specific procedures.

"The system owners were concerned about how to minimize the service outage time, and how to deal with trouble if it happened to arise," Nakayama says.

The answer was a policy of planned system outages limited to weekends.

"As a counter-measure for trouble, we figured out in detail the assumed risks during relocation work. Also, in addition to the preventative measures, we created contingency plans just in case," adds Hayakawa.

To keep the cost of relocation down, it was decided to transport systems in as few trips as possible. However, because there was a difference between systems in the daily schedule and time slots for planned service outages, it was necessary to consider separate transport to minimize risks.

To complete "system outage, release from rack, transport, set up again, restart," within a limited time, Nakayama and Hayakawa did repeated simulations and created a detailed time schedule.

When the project entered the implementation stage, the HPE Services team was in charge of all the work, from dismantling systemsto transportation, installation, and operation confirmation.

"We relocated the development systems first, and after checking carefully to see there were no unreasonable expectations or problems, we dealt with the production environment relocation," says Masayoshi Ueda of HPE.

Hidehiko Muraki of HPE adds: "For the redundant configuration systems, we transported the standby system servers first and after confirming operation at the local site, we transported the main system servers."

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Customer at a glance

HPE services
- HPE Relocation Services

This avoided both the main system and the standby system being affected if there was a problem during transportation. Anticipated traffic congestion was incorporated into the plan.

"We also had the HPE team to make proposals regarding a "method for relocating even one second faster" with strict time restrictions, and incorporated that into the plan. We are grateful that even for problems that were outside of HPE's work scope, they strove to resolve those with the same focus as we had," says Kamei.

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Benefits

Large Scale Relocation Project Completed Successfully with "Zero Problems"
Daiwa Institute of Research Business Innovation and HPE worked closely together and proceeded with the relocation project according to the plan. The relocation was performed in a total of five phases, and all the work was completed in February 2012.

"Not one problem occurred. Through this large scale system relocation, we had a real sense of the importance of relocation plan," says Nakayama.

The success of the relocation project brought great attention within Daiwa Institute of Research Business Innovation as well. Enquiries came in one after another to HPE which contributed to this zero problem relocation.

"Knowledge is required for relocations, but there can't be many vendors who have accumulated that knowledge. In fact, the user companies had almost no experience with relocation work. We will continue to place great value on HPE Relocation Services, which provided the total package of personnel, knowledge and relocation expertise," says Fujita.

Kamei concludes: "Communication and teamwork, and the strong resolve to make the project succeed were big factors in the success. I think having a team that accurately understood our issues and quickly responded with appropriate decisions led to the successful completion of our relocation project with zero problems."

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