

FUJI TELEVISION NETWORK

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Fuji TV Preserves Vital Communications with Brocade Data Migration Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Technology Challenge

Maximize the availability of business-critical e-mail services by accelerating the migration of 400 gigabytes of e-mail data to a new storage system

Solution

Brocade® Data Migration Services

Benefits

- A migration 20 times faster than the client expected
- Vital e-mail services offline for only 30 minutes on a weekend evening
- The integrity of all data was preserved
- Minimal client IT resources required for the project
- Block-level migration that captured even metadata

Many organizations lease storage platforms to help contain the costs of storing data. However, as Tokyo-based Fuji Television Network learned, this strategy can pose serious IT challenges as leases expire and give way to new equipment deployment. In these pivotal moments, organizations must transfer the data to new storage systems with minimal disruption to production applications that rely on the information. In addition, organizations must sustain corporate governance, regulatory compliance, and business processes by ensuring that no information is lost during the process.

As Japan's most widely viewed broadcast network, Fuji TV operates applications around the clock, particularly the Hitachi-based e-mail system that supports messaging with vendors and the company's more than 1400 employees. The e-mail solution also enables viewers to inquire and comment about the broadcaster's programs and scheduling.

To meet its corporate governance objectives, Fuji TV preserved 400 gigabytes of e-mail messages on a leased Hitachi storage array. When the lease concluded in the spring of

2007, Fuji TV leased a Hitachi TagmaStore AMS1000 storage array to replace the legacy device. The broadcaster then confronted the challenge of moving millions of small e-mail files to the new platform.

THE NEED FOR MAXIMUM UPTIME

"Our primary objective was to keep to an absolute minimum the time our e-mail server would be offline while we moved the data," recalls Hiroyuki Matsubara, Director, Systems Planning Section, Fuji TV. "Our IT staff projected that traditional file-level migration tools would require 10 hours to complete the transfer, which is far too long for a very public company like Fuji TV to be without e-mail services. We needed to shrink this window of time."

To find a solution, Matsubara and his staff consulted with Brocade, Fuji TV's vendor for Storage Area Network (SAN) switches since 2001. The Fuji TV team learned that in addition to enterprise storage solutions, Brocade offers a comprehensive suite of professional services to meet a wide range of data center needs.

Foremost among these offerings is Brocade Data Migration Services. With these services, organizations such as Fuji TV can harness proven block- and file-level migration methodologies and technologies—even in heterogeneous environments. Organizations can conduct their migrations either offline or online while preserving data integrity and reducing the impact on users, applications, and business processes.

“With a demanding migration like ours, we required the very best practices to decrease both time and risk,” notes Matsubara. “Brocade’s expertise in large data center migrations made it a solid choice for Fuji TV from both an IT and a business perspective.”

SLICING A TEN-HOUR MIGRATION TO 30 MINUTES

Brocade Professional Services approached the migration by focusing on Fuji TV’s business challenges. In April 2007, Brocade engineers spent two days at the broadcaster’s data center in Tokyo, where they defined the scope of the project, assessed key IT resources—such as storage arrays, network connections, and SAN switches—and planned the ideal topology for the migration. The engineers verified that a block-level migration would dramatically speed up the migration process.

A Brocade engineer then returned to the data center to perform the migration on a weekend evening when e-mail communications are at their lowest volume. He utilized Brocade Data Migration Manager (DMM), a powerful appliance designed for enterprise data migrations.

Brocade DMM simplifies and accelerates migrations by moving data at the block level. As a result, the device is unaffected by the number or size of files to be relocated and can migrate up to five terabytes of data in just one hour. Moreover, the solution captures all file metadata such as security permissions—avoiding the need for IT staff to laboriously reconstruct this information on new hosts.

The Brocade engineer disconnected the host and target storage arrays from the broadcaster’s SAN and connected both systems to Brocade DMM via Fibre Channel links. He gathered the Logical Unit Numbers (LUNs) for both devices and selected the source and destination LUNs. Brocade DMM did the rest. The migration of the entire 400 gigabytes of data took only 30 minutes—just five percent of the time administrators initially estimated.

“Brocade Professional Services greatly exceeded our expectations,” says Matsubara. “Brocade demonstrated that know-how and excellent technology can address even the most stringent business and data center needs.”

ALIGNING DATA CENTER SERVICES TO BUSINESS REQUIREMENTS

By using Brocade Professional Services, Fuji TV ensured that the migration had a minimal effect on the company’s business processes. The e-mail server was offline for only half an hour during the migration. After the data was relocated to the new storage array, the server was up and running, routinely handling e-mail between employees, vendors, advertisers,

WHY BROCADE

- Industry-leading experience in performing time-sensitive data migrations
- Proven high-speed, block-level technology for fast data transfers
- Leading expertise in data center services
- Unmatched knowledge base for meeting enterprise storage requirements

and viewers. Moreover, no data was lost, enabling compliance with the firm’s internal governance policies.

The success of this migration prompted Fuji TV to schedule Brocade Professional Services for another project. In January 2008, the broadcaster called upon Brocade Data Migration Services to relocate a much larger cache of data—4.3 terabytes of essential sales information—to a new storage array.

“Brocade can eliminate the headaches not only of sizeable data migrations, but of all of our data center needs,” concludes Matsubara. “This capability is one more way that Fuji TV benefits from our long and successful association with Brocade.”

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