Hewlett Packard Enterprise

produban

Produban speeds up customer's banking operations with a powerful platform

HPE mission-critical x86 server saves 66% CAPEX, doubles performance

Objective
Move to much higher-performing computing platform to accelerate bank's accounting reconciliation, comply with regulations, and decrease risk

Approach
Replace mainframe-based reconciliation with Oracle Financials Accounting Hub running on HPE mission-critical x86 servers to increase performance in an open systems environment

IT Matters
- Executed extensive proof of concept to demonstrate capabilities of alternative platforms
- Deployed mission-critical server to speed up accounting reconciliation from days to 3.5 hours
- Delivered full environment control through open architecture approach

Business Matters
- 66% lower capital expenditures (CAPEX), along with lower IT operations and licensing costs
- Enable customer success, speeding up its business operations
- Comply with strict internal audits and regulations for the banking industry
- Offer 2X headroom for anticipated organic business growth

Accelerating bank accounting operations

Since the 2008 financial crisis, banks have striven to reduce risk and regain consumer trust through risk management, continuous improvement, and technology.

Fully committed to this transformation, a global bank in Mexico launched its risk data aggregation strategy, which required much faster accounting reconciliation. Previously, running on a mainframe platform, reconciliation could take entire days. This hindered and delayed internal processes, posing the risk of sanctions by regulatory agencies.

The bank tasked Produban, its trusted IT provider, with an ambitious goal: to analyze 60 million daily transactions in 5 hours, and peaks of 240 million in 8 hours. Oracle Financials Accounting Hub (FAH) was the application of choice, which demanded a **mission-critical system** with very high performance.

Initially, Oracle's Exadata Database Machine X6-2 was proposed as the only capable platform, but, while certainly suitable, its capabilities came with downsides: overprovisioned infrastructure, elevated costs, and a closed, bundled appliance architecture.

Christian Méndez, IT Subdirector at Produban, looked beyond. "This was an area of opportunity, we knew a different vendor could deliver the expected results with greater efficiency." So he and his team set out to find a solution that could deliver high performance along with additional business and operation benefits.

"Not only did we exceed performance requirements, the HPE Integrity MC990 X Server provided us and our customer with an open platform, cost efficiencies—both in hardware and support costs, and vendor standardization at the corporate level."

– Christian Méndez, IT Subdirector, Produban

HPE mission-critical x86 server **saves 66%** CAPEX, **doubles performance**

A high performance system at the right scale

Produban turned to Hewlett Packard Enterprise to explore an alternative: the HPE Integrity MC990 X Server, a mission-critical Linux® server. This flexible modular system met the project's requirements, with Oracle certification, high memory capacity to support in-memory computing and scalability to handle large Oracle workloads without requiring clustering software.

Still, choosing newer technology for one of the bank's most critical projects seemed high risk, since there was no record of FAH running on the HPE MC990 X.

To test out performance, Mendez and his team executed simultaneous proof of concept (POC) with both HPE and Oracle platforms. The extensive POC was a global effort involving HPE experts in Houston, India, and Mexico.

Produban ran remote simulations and confirmed the HPE MC990 X exceeded the required performance, processing 400 to 500 million transactions—twice the initial goal—in under 8 hours.

Backed by HPE's commitment, Produban chose the HPE Integrity MC990 X Server.

The environment comprises of an 8-socket configuration, featuring 8 Intel® Xeon® E7-8890 v4 processors with 24 cores each, along with 8 TB of RAM. This configuration is replicated three times: a preproduction environment, a production system with active Oracle database, and a contingency system with Oracle Data Guard and online replication for high availability.

The mission-critical server now runs Oracle 12c supporting an Oracle Financials Accounting Hub 12.2.6 web layer. Paired with EMC solid-state full-allocated storage and Cisco networking, this architecture fully adheres to Produban corporate infrastructure standards.

Produban relied on **HPE Pointnext** to install and deploy the mission-critical system, as well as migrate the Oracle database and optimize its performance, further reducing the transaction processing time. HPE Pointnext also enabled a seamless transition to the new system and its administration, so Christian's team required no additional training.

The project was successfully completed by bringing together the expertise of both HPE and Produban. "Our HPE alliance is years long. There's always been great response, both at the corporate level and personally," says Méndez.

Case study
Produban

Industry
IT services

Customer at a glance

Application
- Oracle Financials Accounting Hub 12.2.6

Hardware
- HPE Integrity MC990 X Server with Intel Xeon E7-8890 v4 processors

Software
- Oracle Database 12c
- Red Hat® Enterprise Linux

HPE Pointnext services
- HPE Installation and Deployment Services
- HPE Database Migration Service
- HPE Foundation Care

Delivering beyond customer demands

Produban went above and beyond the bank's request. The HPE MC990 X server processes daily workloads of 60 million transactions in under 3.5 hours, 1.5 hours faster than required. The objective for peak days was also surpassed: from a goal of 240 million transactions in 8 hours, to 400 million in less than 5.

High performance enabled customer success. Accounting reconciliation now takes hours instead of days, with a broad positive impact on day-to-day operations: reduced risk, fewer manual processes, lower operational costs, timely emission of financial states, coherent information across all business areas, and enhanced credibility. Compliance with internal audits is ensured, and potential sanctions or fines from regulatory agencies, such as the National Banking and Trade Commission (Comisión Nacional Bancaria y de Valores, in Spanish), are avoided.

Produban also delivered valuable cost efficiencies for its customer. The modular HPE MC990 X allowed for efficient sizing, driving acquisition cost to 66% less than Oracle Exadata. Additional savings came with lower support cost and fewer processing cores, which in turn reduced the number of Oracle database licenses required.

With its open architecture, the HPE MC990 X provides greater flexibility, simplifies updates, adheres to corporate standards, and grants the IT experts at Produban full control over the environment and its operational costs. They can determine if and when a platform shift is necessary, and execute with no obstacles.

With the platform running at around 40% capacity, the bank now has twice the 30% headroom requested to allow for organic business expansion. The current configuration also allows for extra processors and memory within the same infrastructure.

Choosing a newer technology over Oracle's tried-and-true solution was not an easy choice for Produban. However, it was the most rewarding and forward thinking: "We took a very high risk. Our reputation was on the line, but it was worth it. We delivered for the business above expectations and have been recognized for it. Every time we run into the customer, they remind us the solution is working in the best possible way."

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