Customer Case Study

Cloud Service Provider Rapidly Scales PaaS Operations

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Customer Name: Qualica

Industry: IT service provider

Location: Tokyo

Number of Employees: 844

Business Challenge

- Qualica wanted a solution that developers could easily work with
- To speed operations, the solution must automate provisioning.
- To meet the demands on its platform-as-a-service environment the company also sought a solution that could scale extensively.

Solution

- Improved development productivity and service efficiency
- Reduced Cisco UCS Manager build time
- Installed switches for future scalability and maintained productivity

Business Results

- Established an ATOMS QUBE base
- Implemented a simple, flexible, scale-out business
- Saw a reduction in time needed for field operations

Qualica adopts Cisco UCS to improve its customer service and product development.

Business Challenge

Qualica uses its own infrastructure in its data center both as a customer service platform and as an in-house development environment platform. In 2011, Qualica renovated its facilities when it moved its head office and adopted the Cisco Unified Computing System™ (Cisco UCS®). Tomoyasu Tsuboguchi, Qualica's Development Technology Center director at IT Services Headquarters, says that improving the productivity of development work was the major objective.

"People currently involved in application development must have knowledge about basic elements such as servers and storage. In addition, bottleneck conditions occur easily for processes that are usable only by skilled workers. Therefore, we were looking for a solution that could be easily controlled by developers and that could automate provisioning. Cisco UCS was released at that time, and we adopted it. Since the 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami, the number of people interested in data centers and the number of specific inquiries about the location and machinery both increased. Consideration of the use of many products to avoid bias in vendors and architectures formed the background to our installation of Cisco UCS."

Tsuboguchi said that Cisco UCS takes exceptional advantage of scaling for technological changes in the platform-as-a-service (PaaS) environment that is used as the foundation for ATOMS QUBE, Qualica's internal development environment and cloud-based production management system.

"PaaS environment base software is compatible with Docker container technology and can perform faster and more flexible operations. What we did was not just move to a new Cisco UCS server; rather, we made scaling for the PaaS environment easier, and we are going ahead with this installation in order to extend this service across the whole company," Tsuboguchi said.

Network Solution

Cisco UCS: Simple to Build

Qualica began installing the new Cisco UCS in its data center in mid-September 2015. The installation was almost complete by the end of September. Even without specialized expertise, the work advanced on schedule without issue. Mitsuhiro Ishida, the Development Technology Center chief at IT Services Headquarters, said he appreciated the simple configuration and easy operation of Cisco UCS.

He noted: "The installation work at the actual [data center] site was completed in about half a day, and BIOS setup, etc., was also completed in one to two days. In terms of less physical cable connectivity and easy operations, this system greatly differs from the conventional server products. I believe that the actual site installation period, which took one week previously, has been reduced with Cisco UCS. In addition, it is good that all operations following the BIOS setup can be done remotely."

Cisco UCS Manager: Easier Scaling

Cisco UCS Manager, a management tool for Cisco UCS, streamlines the input and provisioning of the settings and operation management with an intuitive GUI. Ishida thinks that its operability is improved even for nonexperts. He also spoke highly of the server's scaling in the service profile feature, which has become much easier.

"After using the Cisco UCS Manager, I think it is easy to use. And provisioning can be done remotely, which helps speed up initial settings. It has a feature that automates the scaling of applications for the new PaaS environment [development platform] we built, where we required quick responses from the infrastructure and ease of operation. In that sense, Cisco UCS Manager is an extremely appealing tool that anyone can operate."

Tsuboguchi also praises Cisco UCS Manager from a project management standpoint

"While building a system, there are processes such as in-house discussions, settlement, etc., but normally the actual work starts after the machinery is procured," he explains. "We thought that the flow would be same when installing Cisco UCS for the first time, but when we added it, we started with verification and configuration of the settings. These were to be applied using the service profile feature before the equipment arrived, and this contributed to reducing the time required overall. This is very effective from a project standpoint and could be said to back up the renowned Cisco build speed and efficiency. Increasing remote capabilities reduces the time required both domestically and globally."

Cisco Nexus Switches: Anticipating the Future

Qualica has adopted Cisco Nexus® switches as well as Cisco UCS data center switches. Now that sufficient bandwidth and performance have been confirmed, the company is establishing a base for initiatives such as compatibility with the Cisco® Application Centric Infrastructure (ACI).

Business Results

Qualica plans to further increase the scale of Cisco UCS and use it as the service base for ATOMS QUBE. The company aims to take advantage of the solution's easy scaling and its capability to improve the safety and speed of handling of high-quality services.

PRODUCT LIST

- Cisco UCS B-Series Blade Servers
- Cisco Nexus data center switches

For More Information

For details about Cisco UCS, please visit:
http://www.cisco.com/c/en/us/products/servers-unified-computing/index.html.

For more details about Cisco Nexus switches, visit:
http://www.cisco.com/c/en/us/products/switches/data-center-switches/index.html.

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