EVRY

Enabling financial services clients to meet growing demand for credit and debit card transactions

Overview

The need

EVRY wanted to maintain its position as a leading provider of managed services to large financial services companies in Norway—but processing resources in its mainframe environment were running low.

The solution

Replaced its existing mainframes with three IBM® zEnterprise® EC12 servers running Linux, IBM z/OS®, IBM DB2® for z/OS, IBM CICS® and IBM IMS® software, supporting 50 production LPARs for clients.

The benefit

Enables EVRY to meet ten percent year-on-year growth in transaction volumes; handles peaks in demand of up to 38,500 MIPS; non-disruptive capacity-on-demand feature ensures solution is future-ready.

Formed in 2010 as the result of a merger between EDB and ErgoGroup, EVRY is one of the largest IT services companies in the Nordic region. Headquartered in Oslo, Norway, and with 10,000 employees across Norway, Sweden, Finland and Denmark, the company offers consulting, infrastructure and implementation services to more than 14,000 public and private sector clients.

Need for increased mainframe performance

EVRY wanted to maintain its leading position in the managed services industry by continuing to offer its clients exceptional levels of performance, security and reliability.

As Jan Brandvold, Vice President Nordic Operations, Sales, Communication and Mainframe, explains: "We deliver mainframe services to around 50 clients in Norway. Our clients tend to be large enterprises—we serve a considerable proportion of the Norwegian banking sector, and we run a number of core banking systems in our data center. We also work with insurance and financial services companies, car importers, and a range of other private companies."

He continues: "In the last year, our clients' demand for MIPS has been skyrocketing, and is currently growing by more than ten percent per year. Most of this growth comes from debit and credit card transactions, which Norwegians are making far more frequently than traditional cash purchases."

"We are also seeing a trend towards clients using the mainframe as a data warehouse for their in-house analytics applications—crunching their big data to get actionable insights into their business. With the popularity of

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—Jan Brandvold, Vice President Nordic Operations, Sales, Communication and Mainframe, EVRY

analytics and online banking both increasing rapidly, we estimated that our existing solution would only be able to accommodate the growth in MIPS requirements without upgrading or making extensive use of Capacity on Demand for another six months."

Refreshing the landscape

To create the processing capacity that it needed to support its clients' growing need for transaction processing and analytics, EVRY decided to refresh its IBM System z® landscape, which consisted of one IBM System z10® and one IBM zEnterprise 196 in a high-availability configuration, with a second z10™ as a disaster recovery environment.

"While our performance requirements are steadily increasing, our need for rock-solid reliability and availability is as high as ever," says Brandvold. "Because of this requirement, and as part of our commitment to offer the latest innovative solutions for our clients, we decided to replace our three existing mainframes with IBM zEnterprise EC12 servers."

Working together with an IBM team, the company deployed two IBM zEnterprise EC12 servers configured with Linux, z/OS, IBM DB2 for z/OS, IBM CICS and IBM IMS for its clients' production landscapes, and a third as a disaster recovery environment. In total, the solution contains seven Integrated Facility for Linux processors, four IBM System z Application Assist Processors and five System z Integrated Information Processors—enabling a broad range of cost-effective support for Linux, DB2 and Java workloads.

Brandvold comments: "We have long relied on IBM z/OS to deliver the high levels of availability, scalability and security we need to help our clients meet their business requirements. Equally, IBM CICS is of paramount importance to most of our clients."

After the initial implementation was complete, EVRY's in-house team began the complex process of migrating its clients' business-critical systems to the new platform. This large migration was executed by EVRY without any impact on customer service and was completed at the end of June 2013.

"We were very happy with the way that the IBM team managed the installation of the new zEC12 systems," says Brandvold. "We are currently running both the old and new mainframe systems in parallel, and our in-house team is migrating our clients' logical partitions to the zEC12 servers."

Solution components

Hardware
- IBM® zEnterprise® EC12

Software
- IBM CICS®
- IBM DB2®
- IBM IMS®
- IBM z/OS®
- Linux on System z®

Processing millions of transactions per day

With the IBM solution in place, EVRY has achieved its business goal of obtaining the performance required to support its clients' future needs.

"Today, we are using our zEnterprise EC12 environment to run some of our largest workloads ever," says Brandvold. "Typically, we now process around 100 million transactions each day, but during this year's Easter holiday, online shopping events pushed our daily transactions to a peak of 128 million—an increase of more than 10 percent. The EC12 handled this peak in transaction volumes without breaking a sweat."

The new solution offers EVRY approximately 4,500 extra MIPS compared to the previous mainframe platform—together with the elasticity to temporarily increase processing power to meet seasonal fluctuations in demand.

Capacity on demand

"The On/Off Capacity on Demand feature of the IBM solution gives us peace of mind that the new solution will continue to meet our needs for many years to come," says Brandvold. "For example, if we see an event on the horizon that is predicted to generate high levels of card transactions, we can activate and temporarily pay for as many additional processors as we need to optimize our MIPS during the peak period—and deactivate them when transaction activity returns to its normal levels."

In addition to performance and flexibility, EVRY benefits from increased ease of solution management and the highest levels of security.

"With the zEnterprise Unified Resource Manager, our team can manage the software stack and perform updates even faster and more efficiently than before," says Brandvold. "The solution also includes the latest generation of Crypto Express4S co-processor—ensuring that we can help our clients in the banking and financial services sectors to continue to comply with strict regulatory requirements."

Brandvold concludes: "Thanks to the IBM zEnterprise EC12, we have secured our ability to continue to offer high performance, 24/7 availability and rock-solid reliability to our clients in the banking industry."

For more information

To learn more about IBM System z solutions, contact your IBM sales representative or IBM Business Partner, or visit us at: **ibm.com**/systems/z

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