OneMain Financial Consolidates IT, Reduces Costs with Mainline Solution

THE BUSINESS CHALLENGE

OneMain, provides loans and other credit-related products to more than 10 million customers in 44 states. As a financial services provider subject to federal regulations, security, reliability and efficiency are critical to its IT infrastructure.

In 2008 the company completed the first phase of a consolidation project, which centralized the company's lending application to run on one platform. More than 800 branch iSeries systems were consolidated to three clustered IBM POWER System 570s.

While OneMain experienced improved efficiency and cost savings, growing workloads required additional consolidation. Specifically, the 40 iSeries servers at the Evansville headquarters being used for test, development, quality assurance and one-off applications to support HQ operations needed to be consolidated. Mark Stephens, Vice President and Director of Application Infrastructure for OneMain Financial Services, wanted to explore the best configuration options for the business while also reducing Springleaf's computing costs. The company was seeking more flexibility in allocating resources, consolidating business-critical workloads and enabling higher utilization levels while optimizing energy usage.

Stephens contacted Mainline Information Systems, an IBM Premier Business Partner. The Mainline account executive then assembled the same team of experts who had worked on the Phase I consolidation. Together, they assessed the existing infrastructure and current requirements and strategically planned the Phase 2 consolidation. The Mainline solution consisted of two new IBM Power 770s to replace the IBM Power 570s, Power Hypervisor and PowerLinux OS for the logical partition (LPAR) and dynamic LPAR capabilities. The solution also included consulting services, which empowered Stephens and his staff to allocate the LPARs in-house. Stephens observed, "Mainline pointed us in the right direction for the first few LPAR allocations while providing oversight for the rest."

THE SOLUTION

The IBM Power 770 server is designed for virtualized consolidation of business-critical workloads. It delivers on performance, availability, efficiency and virtualization. PowerVM virtualization enables continuous dynamic resource adjustments across all partitions and operating environments to optimize performance and enable higher utilization levels while optimizing energy usage. Supported environments include AIX®, IBM i and Linux for Power applications all on the same system. The system includes:

IBM POWER Hypervisor

Power Hypervisor provides LPAR, dynamic LPAR and Virtual LAN (memory-to-memory interpartition communication), and is read-only firmware shipped with the OS. It includes security features that are outpacing those of the competition.

Customer: OneMain Financial *(formerly known as Springleaf Financial)*

Headquarters: Evansville, Indiana

Branches: 800

- Meet increased infrastructure demands
- Consolidate HQ and branch lending app
- Reduce computing costs
- Provide more flexibility in allocating resources
- Reach higher utilization levels
- Optimize energy usage

IBM Power 770 server with:
- Power Hypervisor
- PowerVM
- PowerLinux OSs

THE RESULT
- Improved response times
- Reduced software costs, energy usage, floor space and administrative overhead
- Consolidated workloads on fewer systems
- Improved system efficiency
- Lowered operational expense
- Simplified system management
- Increased application performance, operational availability and security
- Allowed for dynamic load assignment as traffic varies
- Provided more flexibility
- Allowed sharing of resources and optimized workload

IBM PowerVM

IBM PowerVM is the family of technologies, capabilities and offerings that deliver industry-leading virtualization on IBM Power processor-based systems. On the Power 770, PowerVM includes base components provided with IBM Power Systems firmware with LPAR technologies. PowerVM allows any individual LPAR to access the maximum amount of memory and CPU cores that are available on the server. In addition, optional components in PowerVM editions are designed to provide advanced virtualization technologies, resulting in efficiencies in resource utilization and cost savings.

IBM PowerLinux

The IBM PowerLinux OS option provides standard Linux distributions for Red Hat Enterprise Linux and SuSE Linux Enterprise Server to run in their own dedicated partitions with access to all of IBM's PowerVM capabilities, including Virtual I/O. This improves reliability and scalability for Linux without impacting cost.

THE RESULT

As a result of the consolidation project from Mainline, OneMain is experiencing many benefits.

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"Partnering with IBM and Mainline makes it easier for us to develop cost-effective and flexible computing solutions, so it's a very pleasant experience working with Mainline," Stephens noted. "The new consolidated solution allows OneMain Financial Services the ability to more efficiently manage our Power Systems resources and meet business unit service levels in the most cost-efficient way."

"Because of Mainline's working relationship with IBM," he concluded, "we believe we are getting the best value in both price and expertise for OneMain Financial Services."

Update: Since the installation of the IBM Power 770s several years ago, OneMain has experienced tremendous growth – organic and through acquisition. This led to a need for additional capacity. With the assistance of Mainline, the company upgraded its IBM Power 770s to two IBM Power E880 servers to meet their needs.

For more information, call your Mainline account representative or call Mainline directly at 866.490.MAIN(6246).