LTI Canada

Future-Proofing Technology for Financial Services Clients

LTI Canada, a leader in Transfer Agency services, wanted to ensure the technology stack servicing their clients was of the best-of-breed, and followed best practices that could scale quickly to meet the immediate and future growth initiatives. The company knew they needed to upgrade their IBM Power Systems environment to achieve these goals. LTI Canada updated from POWER7+ to IBM i on Power Systems S924.

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Business challenge

LTI Canada's Unitrax® wealth and asset management platform manages financial assets of more than CAD 815 billion indirectly, so performance and security for their users is extremely important. As the company prepared to onboard even more clients onto the platform, they knew an IT infrastructure upgrade was critical to support the increased workload and ensure the best performance and security for the platform as much as possible.

Transformation

LTI Canada worked with IBM and business partner Mid-Range Computer Group Inc., to upgrade their IBM i on POWER7+ environment to new Power Systems S924 servers.

Results

40% improvement
in performance of POWER9 from POWER7+

75% decrease
in data center physical footprint

Continued stability
to support 24-7 uptime

Business challenge story

Preparing for New Financial Services Clients

LTI Canada's flagship financial services product is Unitrax®, which is a SaaS-based transfer agency record-keeping suite. Unitrax is one of the leading wealth and asset management platforms in Canada, indirectly managing financial assets of more than CAD 815 billion, thus enabling fund manufacturers and insurance providers to address their record-keeping needs. LTI Canada also has a complete portfolio of financial services products, such

as [WealthDecisions](#), [WealthLink](#), [WealthDocs](#), and [Digital Case and Content Manager (dCCM)](#). Their entire financial services portfolio is hosted in their data center and cloud platforms, with IBM i and Power Systems running the backend.

The company has been a longtime IBM i and Power Systems user for their financial services solutions. In the Fall of 2018, LTI Canada decided it was time to upgrade their POWER7+ IT infrastructure as they prepared for growth. They needed increased scalability, reliability and availability from their IT infrastructure to handle the increased workloads placed on their data center and hosting platform. LTI Canada thus began to look at upgrading to the latest POWER9 hardware.

Ryan Hobbs, Head of Infrastructure and Support Services at LTI Canada, had his teams travel to the IBM Benchmark Center in Rochester, Minnesota to meet with the Power Systems team and learn about POWER9. Here, they saw firsthand the benefits that upgrading to POWER9 would bring to their data center and financial services solutions platform. They brought their own data to test in the benchmark center, and immediately saw an increase in performance by running tests on the latest hardware. Ryan Hobbs and his team knew this upgrade would bring a better user experience for their financial services clients.

The team was confident that IBM i on Power Systems was the right platform to remain on, with a future roadmap stretching to 2028 and beyond. LTI Canada has not experienced any downtime in over three years on its Power Systems infrastructure. Using Power Systems upgrade capabilities and external IBM SAN storage, they could migrate their hosting platform, while minimizing disruptions to their financial services clients. They returned to Toronto, prepared to start planning the upgrade.

> "Our POWER9 system migration enables us to leverage the same technology running the world's two fastest supercomputers, while minimizing our effort and risk migrating the application, database, and hardware with a simple system restart."
>
> — Ryan Hobbs, Head of Infrastructure and Support Services, LTI Canada

Transformation story

Teamwork for a Smooth Upgrade

LTI Canada partnered with IBM and business partner Mid-Range Computer Group Inc. to plan the best path forward for the upgrade. They worked together to create an upgrade plan that would minimize disruptions for their financial services clients, while fitting into the tight window needed to meet business requirements. The team chose [IBM Power Systems S924](#) servers to upgrade to in order to host their financial services platform, while [IBM i](#) continued to be their operating system of choice for the hardware upgrade.

IBM Power Systems S924 is a future-forward infrastructure for mission-critical data. They easily integrate into your organization's cloud and cognitive strategy, as well as deliver industry-leading price-performance. Power Systems are ranked number one in every major reliability category by ITIC. Every POWER9 server is shipped with [PowerVM](#), enabling enterprises to deploy, optimize and recover workloads rapidly.

In the end, the upgrade went smoothly and without issues. IBM i on Power Systems S924 was easy to install and get running, with minimal downtime for their applications. Using IBM SAN technology, Ryan Hobbs and his team could now move their IBM i logical partitions that run on an old system, to a new one, with only a system restart. The impact to their financial services

applications is limited to just a short outage that can be scheduled to occur during a regular maintenance window. This means that LTI Canada's clients will not experience service-impacting interruptions during the upgrade, and business will proceed as usual.

LTI Canada is also utilizing [PowerHA System Mirror for IBM i](#) for high availability. PowerHA helps protect business-critical applications from unplanned outages in your data center. It also provides reliable monitoring, failure detection and automated recovery of business application environments. High availability is critical for LTI Canada's financial services clients, as being offline can result in business interruption and revenue loss.

> " The need for high performance, availability and unmatched security to handle complex concurrent workloads with increased utilization of resources is key to running our multi-client environments. We leverage the full value of the system, having the ability to run at 100%, whereas non-enterprise class systems typically run at 70% before having performance and stability issues. "
>
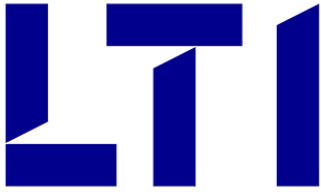> — Ryan Hobbs, Head of Infrastructure and Support Services, LTI Canada

Results story

Increased Performance and Lower TCO

LTI Canada saw increased performance for their financial services platform of 40% after the upgrade from POWER7+ to POWER9. Due to this increased performance, they were also able to reduce their physical data center footprint by 75%, going from four racks of POWER7+ servers to just one with POWER9. This will reduce the amount of infrastructure management time needed by Ryan Hobbs and his team, freeing them to focus on other critical business tasks. Decreased physical data center space will also reduce energy and cooling costs.

The company is also seeing a decreased total cost of ownership with POWER9 from POWER7+ due to lower maintenance costs, by being on the latest hardware. With POWER7 going out of service in 2019, LTI Canada knew that upgrading to POWER9 to avoid extended service costs was the right business move to make. The increase in processing capacity meant the same number of cores could handle a significant spike in demand on their hosting platform, without impacting performance.

Hobbs and his team could also feel more confident knowing that security vulnerabilities were reduced for their financial services clients by upgrading from POWER7+ to POWER9. PowerVM has no reported security vulnerabilities, and Live Partition Mobility protects data in motion during an upgrade. POWER9 also has security built in at all the layers of the stack - from the processor, system, firmware, operating system, and hypervisor. With billions of dollars being managed on their financial services platform, security is extremely important for LTI Canada and their clients.

LTI Canada is confident in their new POWER9 IT infrastructure, and have the scalability, reliability and availability to onboard new financial services clients onto their hosting platform. They can enjoy peace of mind knowing that their clients are more secure by upgrading to the latest hardware and software. LTI Canada is prepared to continue to increase users for their financial services. They have chosen a platform for their financial services solutions that will last long into the future.

LTI
Let's Solve

About LTI Canada

Headquartered in Mississauga, Ontario, Larsen & Toubro Infotech Financial Services Technologies Inc. ("LTI Canada") is a wholly owned subsidiary of Larsen & Toubro Infotech (NSE: LTI, BSE: 540005), a leading global technology consulting and digital solutions company. With over two decades of rich experience, LTI Canada with its flagship product – Unitrax® – a SaaS-based transfer agency record-keeping suite, is one of the leading wealth and asset management platform in Canada, indirectly managing financial assets in excess of CAD$ 815 Bn, enabling fund manufacturers and insurance providers to address their record-keeping needs across the product spectrum such as Mutual Funds, GICs, Hedge Funds, Alternative Investments, Institutional Funds and Insurance Wealth Products – all under one platform.

Solution component

- Power System S924 - IBM i primary OS
- PowerHA High Availability SW
- PowerVM
- Storage: IBM Storwize V7000

Take the next step

To learn more about IBM Power Systems S924 servers, please contact your IBM representative or IBM Business Partner, or visit https://www.ibm.com/us-en/marketplace/power-system-s924?mhq=S924&mhsrc=ibmsearch_p

To learn more about IBM i, please contact your IBM representative or IBM Business Partner, or visit https://www.ibm.com/it-infrastructure/power/os/ibm-i

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