HPE Synergy provides MKB Bank agility to accelerate new digital banking initiatives

Composable infrastructure drives innovation with dynamic resource management

Industry
Financial services

Objective
Improve infrastructure flexibility and efficiency to enable transformation to digital bank

Approach
Consolidate hundreds of physical servers onto HPE Synergy composable infrastructure and adopt a consumption-based IT model to maximize flexibility

IT matters
- Improved IT efficiency, reducing physical devices by 70%
- Accelerated innovation of in-house development teams and fintech company
- Enabled dynamic resource management with greater financial predictability

Business matters
- Reduced operational and support fees by 20%
- Enabled business to advance its strategic objectives with new digital services
- Increased competitiveness for expanding business into new markets

Hungarian financial services enterprise, MKB Bank, transformed IT with **HPE Synergy composable infrastructure** and a flexible, consumption-based IT model to drive innovation at a bank-owned fintech company and accelerate in-house development to advance digital banking initiatives.

MKB Bank isn't satisfied to just be one of the largest commercial banks in Hungary. It's out to be the leading digital bank in all of central Europe. To support that lofty goal, the bank created a fintech (financial technology) company as an incubator for developing cutting-edge new digital banking services.

To support the fintech with the reliable, dynamic infrastructure resources needed to drive a wide range of development projects, while also running its own everyday business operations, MKB Bank needed to build a private cloud. This was no easy task. The bank's legacy infrastructure comprised hundreds of aging servers, many of them tried and true HPE servers. But these compute silos could not deliver the necessary agility and responsiveness required for a growing digital bank. In addition, the cost to manage individual servers was getting out of control. The bank needed a more flexible and cost-effective platform on which to build its private cloud.

> "HPE Synergy is a major enabler of our digital transformation. The composable infrastructure makes it easier for us to provide a central shared resource for multiple users."
>
> – Krisztian Ban, IT Operations Director, MKB Bank

With **HPE Synergy**, MKB Bank is ready to dominate the digital banking space in Hungary and across central Europe

Krisztian Ban, IT operations director at MKB Bank, explains, "We needed a dynamic infrastructure that would allow us to quickly provide IT resources for new startups associated with our fintech or to create a new development environment internally. And we had to manage more accurately the use of infrastructure—operational systems and shared resources—to control our costs better."

Greater technical and financial flexibility

After evaluating Cisco UCS and discussing solution options with HPE, MKB Bank decided on HPE Synergy composable infrastructure. This is a software-defined solution that treats physical and virtual compute, storage, and network fabric as resources that can be allocated and configured for any application on-demand.

Ban notes, "We saw how HPE Synergy provided dynamic resource management, which would allow us to create more precise solutions to match the needs of our fintech startups and internal development teams. Compared to other competitive solutions, composable infrastructure simply offered a better fit for our business goals as a digital bank."

He adds that **HPE GreenLake Flex Capacity** was a key factor in choosing the HPE Synergy solution. "MKB Bank is obligated to modernize with solutions that enable us to develop new applications and services. However, our requirements for compute resources are very unpredictable. HPE GreenLake Flex Capacity enables us

to easily add a server or additional CPU and memory to support a new startup or internal development project. With consumption-based IT, we can dynamically manage our resources with much greater certainty."

Beyond this new level of flexibility, HPE GreenLake also offers financial advantages to MKB Bank. Ban points out that the consumption-based model reduced operational and support fees by 20% compared to the bank's previous infrastructure, and that he expects a full return on investment within three to five years.

Consolidated platform for hundreds of systems

MKB Bank engaged **HPE Pointnext** to install and configure HPE Synergy with HPE Synergy 480 Gen10 compute modules built on Intel® Xeon® Scalable 8100 series processors. The HPE Synergy platform runs more than 200 applications, including everything from the bank's treasury and loan collection systems to enterprise resource planning, via middleware systems and a wide array of front-end and back-end systems. Yet, with all these systems, the density of HPE Synergy enabled the bank to reduce the number of remaining physical servers from 120 to 30.

Ban points out that consolidating physical devices, combined with the built-in redundancy of the HPE Synergy platform, avoids any single point of failure. "The system design of HPE Synergy helps prevent downtime, which is especially important for a bank."

Along with the implementation of the composable infrastructure, HPE Pointnext installed and configured **HPE OneView** integrated IT management software. In addition, HPE Pointnext conducted a training workshop for the bank's system administrators responsible for the composable infrastructure.

Ban remarks on the value of this workshop, "The training provided by HPE Pointnext was important for our staff to learn the functionality of HPE Synergy and HPE OneView. The training also provided tips and insights for how to get the most out of the features of the composable infrastructure, which helps them be more efficient and productive with the system."

To keep HPE Synergy running at peak efficiency and to assure availability, MKB Bank relies on HPE Datacenter Care from HPE Pointnext, which comes with HPE GreenLake Flex Capacity. This includes proactive operational services such as remote diagnostics and regular firmware upgrades, as well as a dedicated account support manager to provide ongoing advice and planning.

"I have a very good relationship with our account support manager from HPE Pointnext," says Ban. "We receive extra support from him and help in planning important updates."

He adds, "The new in-house standardized technology frees up more time for my team to focus on delivering to requestors and business stakeholders."

Streamlines resource provisioning

By adopting HPE Synergy, MKB Bank is now well positioned to realize its vision of becoming a dominant digital bank in Hungary and across central Europe. By reducing complexity and streamlining resource provisioning, Ban and his team can respond to the business more quickly and dynamically. In fact, HPE Synergy is helping Ban transform IT into a service provider for the bank's fintech company and the startups it's supporting.

"HPE Synergy is a major enabler of our digital transformation," Ban affirms. "The composable infrastructure makes it easier for us to provide a central shared resource for multiple users. Using Synergy Image Streamer with the Synergy Composer, we can create configuration profiles and deploy a profile image to build new servers. It allows us to deliver the advantages of a cloud but with less complexity. Working through HPE OneView, our team can manage the composable infrastructure without any specialized knowledge of the underlying components. This gives us much more speed and agility."

As MKB Bank advances its digital banking initiative, Ban expects the IT efficiencies enabled by HPE Synergy to play a key role in driving greater competitiveness and helping the bank expand into new markets. "The faster we can give developers the resources they need, the faster they can launch new applications and services that the bank can turn into revenue," he concludes. "This is where we see HPE Synergy having an important positive impact on our future."

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Customer at a glance

Solution
Composable infrastructure to drive digital banking initiatives

HPE Hardware
HPE Synergy

- HPE Synergy 480 Gen10 Compute Modules

- HPE Synergy Composer

- HPE Image Streamer

- HPE EVA Storage

Software
- HPE OneView

HPE Pointnext services
- HPE Installation and Startup Services

- HPE GreenLake Flex Capacity

- HPE Datacenter Care

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