Banking

Taking efficiency to new heights with HCI

Banco de Crédito del Perú

To help it to keep delivering exceptional customer experiences, Peru's biggest bank is optimizing data center operations with Lenovo ThinkAgile VX Integrated Systems, powered by 4th Gen Intel® Xeon® Scalable processors—boosting efficiency and supporting innovation.

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Who is Banco de Crédito del Perú?

Banco de Crédito del Perú (BCP) is the oldest private bank and financial services provider in Peru, founded in 1889. Today, BCP is the largest institution in Peru's financial system, serving more than 13 million customers and has a 40% market share. Headquartered in Lima, the bank operates branches nationwide and employs over 17,000 people. Part of the Credicorp Group, BCP is one of the largest banks in Latin America.

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The Challenge

With more than 135 years of history, BCP has long been Peru's leader in traditional banking. More recently, the bank has embraced digital channels to deliver exciting new products and services, enhance the customer experience, and optimize operations.

To keep day-to-day operations running smoothly and ensure a "WOW" experience for customers, BCP runs its core business applications, service containers, back-office systems, and telephone exchange on a virtualized infrastructure comprising more than 400 physical servers and more than 25 storage systems.

When its previous Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS) contract came up for renewal, BCP seized the opportunity to rethink its data center. "We knew there was room for significant improvement in terms of efficiency and performance," comments Germán Lopez Garcia, Infrastructure Chapter Leader at BCP.

Germán Lopez Garcia
Infrastructure Chapter Leader,
Banco de Crédito del Perú

“Both the virtualization platform and the physical servers are a critical layer in the business. Today, this infrastructure supports most of our critical services. We are constantly looking for ways to make our data center operations more efficient, whether in terms of energy consumption, equipment development, performance features, or consolidation.”

Turning over a new leaf

BCP decided to move from a traditional three-tier data center architecture to a hyperconverged infrastructure (HCI). The new HCI solution is based on Lenovo ThinkAgile VX Integrated Systems—powered by 4th Gen Intel® Xeon® Scalable processors with built-in performance accelerators that help to achieve up to 53% performance and up to 20% improvement in power efficiency over previous generations.

ThinkAgile VX Series is an HCI solution that is integrated with the VMware Cloud Foundation software-defined data center (SDDC) stack that comprises of VMware by Broadcom's virtualization software solutions such as VMware vSphere and VMware vSAN. It provides all the hardware and software needed to build an enterprise infrastructure platform to support virtualized and containerized workloads, and is flexible, easy to manage, and easy to change for future needs.

Hardware

Lenovo ThinkAgile VX630 V3 Integrated System
Lenovo ThinkAgile VX650 V3 Integrated System
4th Gen Intel® Xeon® Scalable processors

Software

VMware Cloud Foundation with VMware vSphere and VMware vSAN

Services

Lenovo Premier Support
Lenovo Warranty Upgrade Services

“HCI represents a fantastic way to reduce technological complexity and boost efficiency. We currently have hundreds of servers and storage systems in our data center. By consolidating to Lenovo's ThinkAgile VX Series, we will have much less physical infrastructure—requiring less power, less cooling, and less manual work to run.”

David Villavicencio Bernal
Technology Strategy and Innovation Manager, IT Infrastructure and Operations, Banco de Crédito del Perú

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Results

BCP is currently in the process of installing 154 Lenovo ThinkAgile VX Integrated System nodes, which will replace more than 400 blade servers and 12 storage systems—a 60% total reduction in hardware. This is projected to save the bank 20% in energy costs and 30% in human resources.

Germán Lopez Garcia elaborates: “Previously, we had a team of people managing the hardware layer of our infrastructure as well as a vulnerability team dedicated to deployment and compliance. With the HCI solution, we can orchestrate the virtual platform in a much more centralized way. So, we plan on merging these two teams and redeploying some people to other areas, which will reduce operating expenses while strengthening the operational stability of our services.”

- 60% reduction in hardware
- 20% lower energy costs
- 30% human resources savings

Looking ahead

David Villavicencio Bernal, Technology Strategy and Innovation Manager, IT Infrastructure and Operations at BCP, adds: “The Lenovo ThinkAgile VX platform will enable us to deliver services in a much more automated way. We plan to offer infrastructure self-services, which will help accelerate business innovation.”

Over the next four years, BCP will install at least 100 additional Lenovo ThinkAgile VX Integrated System nodes and plans to migrate workloads currently running on its legacy IBM Z mainframe and IBM Power Systems infrastructure to the Lenovo platform.

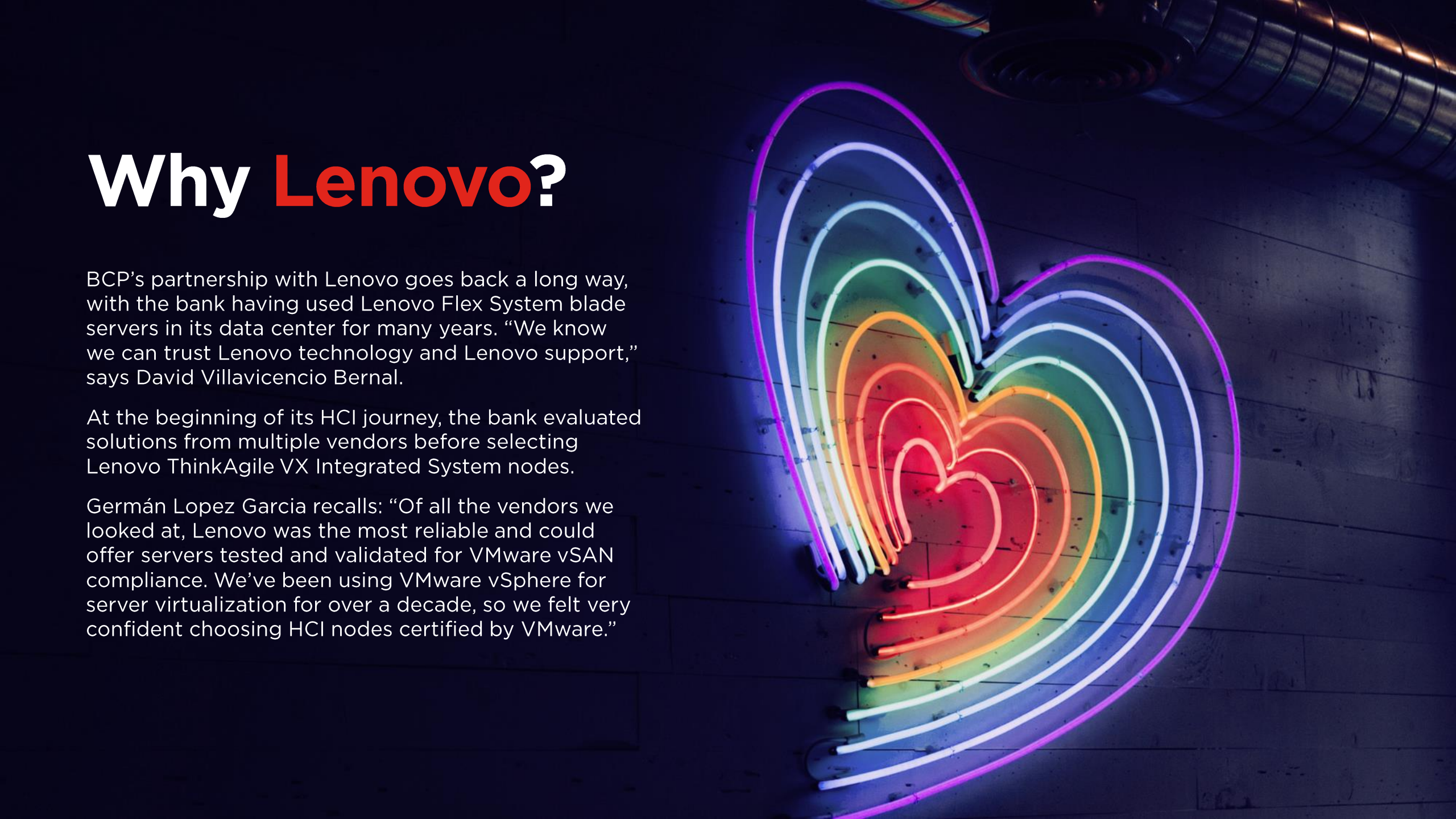
“We expect the Lenovo HCI solution to make our data center operations leaner, greener, and ready for the future,” says David Villavicencio Bernal.

Why Lenovo?

BCP's partnership with Lenovo goes back a long way, with the bank having used Lenovo Flex System blade servers in its data center for many years. "We know we can trust Lenovo technology and Lenovo support," says David Villavicencio Bernal.

At the beginning of its HCI journey, the bank evaluated solutions from multiple vendors before selecting Lenovo ThinkAgile VX Integrated System nodes.

Germán Lopez Garcia recalls: "Of all the vendors we looked at, Lenovo was the most reliable and could offer servers tested and validated for VMware vSAN compliance. We've been using VMware vSphere for server virtualization for over a decade, so we felt very confident choosing HCI nodes certified by VMware."



How can banks boost efficiency?

Peru's largest bank optimizes its operations with an HCI solution from Lenovo and VMware, powered by 4th Gen Intel® Xeon® Scalable processors.

Explore Lenovo ThinkAgile VX Series

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