



Banking

# Building a **future-proof** banking infrastructure

Shimane Bank

Japan's Shimane Bank works with Lenovo Professional Services to migrate swiftly and smoothly to a new virtual infrastructure, running on reliable Lenovo ThinkSystem servers and storage powered by Intel® Xeon® Scalable processors.



Powered by up to 4th Gen  
Intel® Xeon® Scalable processors

Lenovo

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## Who is Shimane Bank?

Shimane Bank is a second-tier regional bank headquartered in Matsue, Shimane Prefecture, Japan. Founded in 1915 with the vision of contributing to the development of the local community, the bank operates 24 branches in Shimane Prefecture and nine branches in Tottori Prefecture, and employs 337 people as of March 2022.

In 2019, Shimane Bank entered into a capital and business alliance with the SBI Group. It has contributed to the growth of the region by providing a variety of innovative products, such as the smartphone app “Shima-pho!”, supporting the expansion of sales channels, and offering highly convenient services. By April 2023, the bank’s deposit balance had reached more than 10 billion yen.



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# The Challenge

In late 2022, Shimane Bank made the decision to renew the virtual infrastructure supporting its information systems. At the same time, the bank took the opportunity to reassess its underlying hardware infrastructure, and opted to migrate to a new vendor's platform.

In banking systems where stable operation is critically important, application version control is often undertaken only when absolutely necessary. As a result, there are many systems that are not updated until a problem occurs. A prime issue for Shimane Bank was to integrate such legacy applications in its virtualized platform, especially its Active Directory environment as this could not be deployed on the existing virtualized platform.

After comparing and examining proposals from various companies, Shimane Bank determined that Lenovo offered the solution that best addressed these issues. The bank began working with Lenovo to build a new virtual infrastructure and move forward with the data migration project.



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“We had the option of continuing to use the existing system infrastructure, but we wanted to avoid the cost increase of hardware procurement. We also decided to switch vendors in order to realize efficient and cost-effective system operation, which is what we always consider when resources and IT budgets are limited.”

**Mr. Tsukasa Fujiwara**

Business Administration Group, Shimane Bank

# Lenovo systems and services unite for a successful migration

Shimane Bank kicked off the project in March 2023, with the first phase focused on building a new virtualized infrastructure. Here, the project team surveyed the existing IT environment, identified items necessary for the new environment design, and proceeded with the introduction of servers and storage for the virtual infrastructure. In parallel, the team worked to design and deliver virtualization environments for the overall development and migration, Active Directory migration, and backup.

## Hardware

Lenovo ThinkSystem SR630 V2 powered by Intel® Xeon® Scalable processors  
Lenovo ThinkSystem SR630 powered by Intel® Xeon® Scalable processors  
Lenovo ThinkSystem DM3000H  
Lenovo ThinkSystem DM5000F

## Software

Microsoft Active Directory  
Veeam Backup & Replication  
VMware vSphere

## Services

Lenovo Professional Services

As the main hardware for the new virtualization server, Shimane Bank selected the Lenovo ThinkSystem SR630 V2: a versatile and highly reliable rack server powered by Intel® Xeon® Scalable processors, designed to handle a variety of workloads and featuring built-in accelerators for enhanced performance. Alongside this, the bank deployed Lenovo ThinkSystem SR630 as the virtualization server for development and migration and Active Directory migration.

In addition, the bank chose to use the Lenovo ThinkSystem DM5000F All Flash Array—an all-flash unified storage solution—as the file server for its new virtual infrastructure. The ThinkSystem DM5000F All Flash Array is an ideal storage solution for latency-sensitive workloads such as databases, VDI, and virtualization. The bank is also deploying a Lenovo ThinkSystem DM3000H as its network-attached storage (NAS) system for back-up environments.

Mr. Tsukasa Fujiwara, Business Administration Group, Shimane Bank, commented, "Lenovo proposed that the migration server could be repurposed after the migration was completed. This was one of the reasons we selected Lenovo as our partner, because this option helped us stay within the budget we had envisioned."

Lenovo's solution was not simply limited to IT systems delivery. Shimane Bank made use of Lenovo Professional Services together with the hardware renewal. This allowed the bank to leverage expert support from Lenovo's experienced consultants, engineers, and project managers to guide a smooth project.

The joint team from Shimane Bank and Lenovo formulated a data migration plan in parallel with the construction of a new virtualized infrastructure, running on new Lenovo hardware. Following this plan, the bank successfully completed a rehearsal on file server and V2V (virtual-to-virtual) to the new environment and migrated to production.

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“We felt that a step-by-step approach was essential for a system that would operate stably for a long time. And although it was not a busy time of year when the project was implemented, we wanted to avoid system downtime as much as possible, even during the weekend. Despite these restrictions, we were able to carry out the migration project smoothly by streamlining migration steps.”

**Mr. Tsukasa Fujiwara**

Business Administration Group, Shimane Bank



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## Results

With support from Lenovo Professional Services, Shimane Bank was able to draw up a comprehensive hardware deployment and data migration strategy that kept the costs and disruption of the project tightly controlled.

This included leveraging Veeam Backup & Replication to streamline the migration by avoiding two-step upgrades with the current virtualization software, and the migration plan to minimize the impact of two-step upgrades that were inevitable for Active Directory in its deployment over the virtualized infrastructure.



Migrated to new virtual environment and hardware platform with minimal disruption



Accelerated application response times



Kept costs low by repurposing hardware used for migration

These decisions made it possible to complete the changeover without being aware of the storage and virtualization environment versions, and shortened the time required for the migration. In addition, the proposal to continue using the same Veeam instance used as backup software at the time of migration contributed greatly to the realization of efficient and cost-effective system operations.

Although the bank's new Lenovo infrastructure has only been in operation for a short period of time, the benefits of the renewal have already begun to emerge. Mr. Tsukasa Fujiwara notes: "System operators have commented that V2V [virtual to virtual] migration on the virtualized infrastructure has become easier." Mr. Tsukasa Fujiwara has also seen for himself that application response times, which used to be slow, have "improved noticeably."



**“Lenovo provided us with strong support based on their extensive experience, starting from the kick-off, through requirements, policy making, and various deliverables up to design, as well as actual migration support. The way the project was conducted was very well thought-out and sophisticated.”**

**Mr. Tsukasa Fujiwara**

Business Administration Group, Shimane Bank

# Why **Lenovo**?

By joining forces with Lenovo, Shimane Bank was able to draw on the skills and support of a highly capable team.

Mr. Tsukasa Fujiwara confirms: "There were areas that were difficult to solve with the skills of the project members at my bank. We were able to consult with Lenovo on these issues, and they immediately came to our aid on many occasions, which was very helpful. It was reassuring for us to have a service that followed the project step by step. This allowed us to successfully complete a project that could not fail."

As a bank with deep roots in the community, Shimane Bank will continue to pursue initiatives to fulfill its important mission of supporting the local economy, including its commitment to Sustainable Development Goals. It expects Lenovo to play an active role in collaboration in coping with the challenges in its initiatives.

Mr. Fujiwara commented, "We are constantly exploring what Shimane Bank can do through information gathering and collaboration with partner companies and other banks. We have many ideas that we would like to realize, but from now on, security measures will be extremely important, and we would like to improve the efficiency of our business operations on top of that."



# How can you achieve a major transformation with minimal cost or disruption?

Migrating data swiftly and smoothly to  
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