

Consumer Products

Sparking **more efficient** back-office operations

Yuxi Cigarette Factory

By upgrading its back-office application landscape with a hyperconverged infrastructure based on Lenovo ThinkAgile VX Series, Yuxi Cigarette Factory boosts performance and uptime while slashing energy consumption.



Lenovo

1

Who is Yuxi Cigarette Factory?

Yuxi Cigarette Factory is part of Yuxi Hongta Tobacco Group Co., Ltd., China's largest tobacco manufacturer. It produces many of the country's most popular cigarette brands, including Hongtashan, Ashima, Congratulations New Year, and Hongmei.

The factory is located in Yuxi City, Yunnan Province—renowned as the hometown of tobacco. Its 3,000 employees produce more than 2.2 million boxes of cigarettes each year, making it the largest tobacco production facility in the country.

2

The Challenge

For years, Yuxi Cigarette Factory has relied on Lenovo ThinkSystem SR860 servers to run its core enterprise resource planning, logistics, and manufacturing control and execution systems. These systems ensure that production lines run smoothly day in, day out.

The factory's back-office systems, however, ran on older infrastructure from another vendor. Both compute and storage were nearing capacity, which threatened to affect the performance of more than 60 key back-office applications, which cover everything from sales and finance to equipment failure analysis and energy consumption management.

Zhang Cheng, Technician at Yuxi Cigarette Factory, comments: "Our back-office applications are just as important to the business as our ERP and MES workloads. Any downtime can cause very serious problems, so we knew we needed to upgrade the underlying infrastructure."

Doing things differently

Yuxi Cigarette Factory chose to replace the aging server, storage, and networking underpinning its back-office applications with a modern hyperconverged infrastructure (HCI) based on six all-flash Lenovo ThinkAgile VX7530 Appliances, powered by VMware virtualization software.

“The simplicity and built-in redundancy of HCI appealed to us,” recalls Zhang Cheng. “In the past, we deployed back-office applications in a high availability setup to help ensure business continuity. With the Lenovo ThinkAgile HCI solution, fault tolerance and disaster recovery come baked in.”

The factory uses Lenovo’s Software Defined Infrastructure (SDI) Management Platform to manage both the physical and virtual resources of its new HCI.

Hardware

Lenovo ThinkAgile VX7530
Appliances

Software

Lenovo Software Defined
Infrastructure Management Platform
VMware vSAN
VMware vSphere

Services

Lenovo Deployment Services

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“We are very pleased with the Lenovo SDI Management Platform, which makes it easy for us to keep an eye on the cluster’s health and to view resource usage, including the CPU, memory, and storage resources, as well as the IOPS, latency, and throughput.”

Zhang Cheng

Technician, Yuxi Cigarette Factory

3

Results

Since refreshing its back-office application landscape with Lenovo ThinkAgile VX Series, Yuxi Cigarette Factory has seen a significant improvement in performance. “Moving to all-flash technology has made a big difference to application response times,” confirms Zhang Cheng.

Crucially, the new HCI solution has improved system reliability and resource availability—helping to ensure that key applications are always online. “To keep production lines rolling, we need back-office operations to run smoothly too,” says Zhang Cheng. “And that’s exactly what Lenovo ThinkAgile VX Series helps us to do.”

What’s more, by consolidating its back-office infrastructure to just six Lenovo ThinkAgile VX7530 Appliances, Yuxi Cigarette Factory reduced energy consumption by two thirds.



200% performance increase



100% uptime for key applications



66% lower energy consumption

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“For me, one of the biggest benefits of the new solution is the Lenovo SDI Management Platform. We have it on a large screen in our control center, so we always have a clear view of resource usage. It makes managing our back-office application landscape much more intuitive.”

Zhang Cheng

Technician, Yuxi Cigarette Factory

Why **Lenovo**?

Yuxi Cigarette Factory has long relied on Lenovo technology to support its manufacturing operations. “Continuing our collaboration with Lenovo was a natural choice,” says Zhang Cheng. “We have very positive experiences working with the Lenovo team, and we know that the infrastructure is very stable and reliable.”

For the factory’s IT team, Lenovo’s SDI Management Platform was another key deciding factor. “We appreciate having a single interface for managing both the physical hardware and the virtualized resources, as it simplifies routine admin tasks and frees up time for our team,” concludes Zhang Cheng.



How can factories ensure back-office operations run as smoothly as production?

Yuxi Cigarette Factory moved its back-office application landscape to a Lenovo ThinkAgile HCI solution, improving both performance and uptime.

[Explore Lenovo ThinkAgile VX Series](#)