



LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES TAKES FIRST VIRTUAL STEP WITH VMWARE



LANDBANK

INDUSTRY

FINANCIAL SERVICES

LOCATION

PHILIPPINES

KEY CHALLENGES

- Compliance with domestic regulations
- Facilitate auditing process
- Vulnerable security levels

SOLUTION

- VMware vSphere® with Operations Management™
- VMware Site Recovery Manager™
- VMware NSX®

BUSINESS BENEFITS

- Strengthened IT security for bank and met compliance requirements
- Increased savings in costs and space
- Ability to provision IT services quicker than before
- Enhanced disaster recovery functions
- Effective IT team to work on additional projects

To overcome its IT challenges surrounding security and compliance, and to become more competitive in the Philippines' banking industry, the Land Bank of the Philippines needed to modernize its existing IT infrastructure to become more agile. Integrating VMware virtualization solutions, Landbank heavily strengthened its IT security and disaster recovery processes, improved provisioning, and saved cost and space.

Founded in 1963, the Land Bank of the Philippines (Landbank) is a financial institution that aims to promote development in the countryside while remaining financially viable. Landbank is the largest formal credit institution in the rural areas and ranks amongst the top five commercial banks in the country.

The Challenge

To ensure the operational soundness and global competitiveness of local banks, the banking industry in the Philippines continues to be heavily governed. In a bid to comply with new regulations and to retain its competitive edge as one of the leading banking institutions in the country, Landbank embarked on a journey to virtualize its software solutions for higher performance.

Archival Tolentino, Network Operations Department, Technology Management Group at Landbank said, "As competition in the banking industry heats up, Landbank needs to move forward with the times to stay ahead. We need to ensure that our IT processes continue to be effective. Providing our customers with greater security is one of our priorities."

Besides enhancing security, Landbank also wanted to integrate solutions that would allow audits to be performed seamlessly to meet compliance requirements. In addition to its business priorities, Landbank faced challenges including inadequate provisioning and time inefficiency. They also struggled to meet the fast-paced business demands in the banking industry. As these challenges continue to grow and obstruct the bank's progress, the bank needed a more robust IT solution to support the company's IT objectives.

“VMware is a pioneer of virtualization solutions with a wide range of advanced, relevant and applicable IT solutions. We have just embarked on our virtual transformation journey, and we look forward to continuing with VMware as we progress further.”

ARCHIEVAL TOLENTINO
NETWORK OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT
TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT GROUP
LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

APPLICATIONS VIRTUALIZED

- iAccess Text Connect

PLATFORM

- Windows

PARTNER

- Total Information Management

The Solution

Landbank needed to utilize new solutions as the older solutions could not be adapted to support growing needs. Understanding Landbank's desire to become more agile, the bank's IT partner, Total Information Management (TIM), recommended VMware virtualization solutions, which included vSphere® with Operations Management™ (vSOM), VMware Site Recovery Manager™ (SRM), and VMware NSX®. The solutions would enable Landbank to strengthen its IT security measures and support current and future business requirements.

Business Results and Benefits

Since integrating VMware's advanced IT solutions, Landbank has seen improved IT security, an increased savings in costs and space, faster provisioning, and more robust disaster recovery functions. Although the size of the IT team remains the same, Tolentino attested that manpower is now more evenly distributed and the team can focus on other projects to drive new initiatives for Landbank.

By virtualizing its physical servers, Landbank moved more than 50 existing servers to the cloud, reducing its overall server footprint. This allowed Landbank to secure space savings and eliminated the need for expensive data center expansion. Apart from reducing expenditure on power, cooling and hardware maintenance, vSphere virtualization also increased Landbank's operational efficiency, offering higher availability and greater flexibility that comes with operating on virtual workloads.

Provisioning has also improved immensely. VMware solutions and server installations now take half the time compared to Landbank's previous IT network. In fact, a simple provisioning can be handled in less than a minute, drastically elevating Landbank's IT performance.

Tolentino said, “Our transition to VMware solutions was seamless and easy. It was a big move for us but we had very good support from our partner, Total Information Management, and the VMware team in the Philippines. They understood our needs and worked closely with our team to secure Landbank's IT objectives.”

Looking Ahead

Aiming to be recognised as the top universal bank that promotes inclusive growth, Landbank will continue to build on its digital transformation.

The bank is now rolling out VMware SRM to improve its automated disaster recovery and execution plans. Providing high quality and reliable recovery, the SRM shortens the overall disaster recovery time which provides an important advantage for Landbank.

Landbank is also deploying NSX, a network virtualization and security platform, to provide customers with enhanced security, while strengthening the security of its IT servers to comply with regulations set out by the Philippines Government.

Tolentino said, “VMware solutions have helped Landbank achieve business continuity and network virtualization. At the same time, the solutions have given us a foundation to completely virtualize Landbank's entire enterprise and to prepare the way for cloud computing.”

