

Real-Time Reality: Converged Infrastructures for the SAP HANA Platform

By Ravi Chalaka, Vice President, Solutions Marketing,
Hitachi Data Systems



Are You Ready for Real-Time Information?

How often do you get requests for fresh data?

Enterprises today have a voracious appetite for real-time data to enable better decision-making. That's because real-time data is no longer a luxury. But there can be a trade-off. Increasing the volume of data alone doesn't help you make better decisions because the data needs to be analyzed as quickly as it comes in. In fact, increasing data growth gets in the way of decision-making when using traditional approaches.

The SAP HANA platform changes all of that. SAP HANA processes your company data, in memory, so you can answer critical business questions in real time. Reports are fresh, decision-making is better-informed and new business workflows and processes can be created because you're analyzing information faster than ever.

Rapidly evolving beyond business analytics alone, the SAP HANA platform is becoming a central piece of the modern data center. Over time, you can expect to pull vital business data into SAP HANA from a variety of sources across your enterprise, such as your SAP Business Warehouse (BW), Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP), Customer Relationship Management (CRM) and other line of business (LOB) applications. In this regard, SAP HANA is a journey and not a destination. Deploying SAP HANA lays the groundwork to leverage that data in real time to achieve business goals, like keeping customers and partners satisfied, winning new customers, expanding into new markets and driving revenue growth.

With a converged infrastructure, organizations can leverage the same infrastructure to expand from small to very large scale systems and achieve the highest reliability and availability with a resilient architecture. In addition, organizations can minimize capital and operating expense with rapid deployment and superior consolidation.

What It Takes to Implement the SAP HANA Platform

Whether you're implementing ERP on the SAP HANA platform, migrating your SAP BW data to it, or deploying it for new applications, SAP HANA will eventually reach the core of your business. With this journey in mind, you'll want to consider the infrastructure that supports SAP HANA now and avoid an

POINT OF VIEW

environment change at a later time. Here are some aspects to consider that will help you get the most out of your journey.

Robust Operational Performance

In-memory computing, the technology at the core of SAP HANA, demands processing, storage and transport at unprecedented speeds and volumes. You'll spend a lot of time moving data, whether it's for backups, disaster recovery, loading or other needs. The operational aspects of your SAP HANA platform should be central to your SAP HANA strategy. SAP HANA running on a robust and resilient architecture that comprises the most capable compute elements and true enterprise-class storage makes these aspects possible. To get the robust operational performance you need to succeed, it's important to bring the right platform into the data center for the most demanding and data-intensive environments.

Predictable Scalability

One thing's for sure: Your SAP HANA platform and environment will grow. The amount of data will increase as you add applications to your SAP HANA platform or increase the size of the existing application. You need a solution that is designed to adapt and scale to your business needs. This growth requirement, if not managed, may translate to not only replacing systems with additional capital expenditure but also

Hitachi Data Systems is a SAP Global Technology Partner, the highest level of partnership SAP offers. More than 250 global customers run their businesses with SAP and Hitachi, so you'll be in good company.

increased costs associated with migration to new systems, IT staff resources and project delays that impact business outcome. You need predictable scalability for unpredictable data requirements.

To accommodate the growth of SAP HANA environments, you need a platform that scales up and scales out. The scale-up capability is ideal for running SAP BW, SAP Business Suite on SAP HANA, proof-of-concept, and development and test environments. Scale-up configurations can be supported in bare metal as well as virtual environments with VMware vSphere. The scale-out capability is ideal for larger SAP BW environments, especially ones operating in a mission-critical environment.

Disaster Tolerance

You've spent a lot of time and money making sure that your existing core business applications are rock-solid. And in the event of a disaster, you've ensured that you can meet both your recovery point objective (RPO) and your recovery time objective (RTO). In addition, you'll

want to evaluate the disaster recovery strategies for your SAP HANA platform deployment to ensure there's no unwanted impact on your productive systems. This way, you can optimize your investment of planning, staff training and vendor interaction for mission-critical readiness and disaster tolerance.

All of these demands combined with staying under budget and working more efficiently are liable to challenge any CIO. You need more than just a vendor to support you in these endeavors. You need a partner who can work with you, who understands your needs, and who can help you deploy and grow your SAP HANA platform into the future.

Converged Infrastructures Turn Real-Time Dreams Into Reality

Converged infrastructures are integrated solutions composed of storage, servers, networking tools and software with comprehensive management. They're pretested and preconfigured, ready for you to bring into your data center and get up and running in record time. And because converged infrastructures are made up of such tightly knit components, they support the mission-critical reliability and performance you need to bring real-time data into your decision-making.

In the past, you could choose any number of hardware vendors and infrastructure configurations to host your mission-critical business applications. But the complexity of some solutions, especially those that include products from disparate vendors, can significantly hinder performance and efficiency. The speed at which your business is moving today (and how much faster it will move tomorrow) requires infrastructure simplicity, and the right platform can get you there.



With SAP HANA bringing real-time data to the enterprise, SAP prefers to offer the solution as part of a converged infrastructure stack (also called an SAP HANA appliance), to guarantee its capabilities with a certain set of key performance indicators (KPIs). Only an SAP certified converged infrastructure designed by a trusted vendor offers the reliability, scalability and performance needed to handle your mission-critical business applications.

And it's not just SAP that sees the benefits of the converged infrastructure. It's expected that over the next four years, the majority of data-center systems will be purchased and deployed as part of a converged infrastructure solution, whether it's for real-time analytics, virtualization or other critical business applications.

If you're ready to bring real-time data to your enterprise, Hitachi Data Systems offers converged solutions for SAP HANA, allowing you to rely on a trusted, proven, certified vendor. Our converged infrastructures give you real-time data with mission-critical reliability, resilience and operational performance, and a consolidated solution that scales with your business.

These Hitachi solutions are supported in bare metal as well as virtual environments with VMware vSphere. Hardware partitioning with Hitachi Compute Blade logical partitioning (LPAR) is also supported. As defined by SAP, virtual environments are only available and supported in scale-up SAP HANA configurations today.

SAP HANA is designed for high performance, but since it's optimized for Intel hardware, it may not always perform well within virtualized environments. In general, memory overcommit can be used to better utilize hardware running multiple virtual machines (VMs). This strategy works well as long as the VMs stay within an average utilization range.

In reality, virtualization actually can complement SAP HANA. For example, the path to the cloud starts with virtualization and consolidation that transforms SAP HANA. Private, public and hybrid clouds leverage virtualization and lower the entry barrier for startups by beginning small and later scaling to meet their user and data volume needs. By standardizing on **VMware SAP HANA virtualized**, you can gain further total cost of ownership (TCO) reductions and additional options for planning and managing multiple nonproductive systems.

What makes the solution from Hitachi Data Systems different? Unlike other converged infrastructure solution vendors who focus on low-cost components, Hitachi takes a different approach and delivers a solution that provides immediate business value for mission-critical applications. By leveraging compute blades, Hitachi provides the same service level agreements (SLAs) and operational excellence for SAP HANA platform that our customers enjoy today for their mission-critical applications, like ERP.

Hitachi Data Systems and SAP Technology Leadership Delivers Real-Time Reality

Hitachi Data Systems and SAP have worked together for more than 20 years. The Hitachi solution for the SAP HANA platform has been certified by SAP, so you know that your converged infrastructure will have the reliability you've come to expect from both SAP and Hitachi. And, during our time together, Hitachi Data Systems has won numerous SAP awards for exceptional customer satisfaction.

Hitachi Data Systems is a SAP Global Technology Partner, the highest level of partnership SAP offers. More than 250 global customers run their businesses with SAP and Hitachi, so you'll be in good company.

Hitachi Data Systems and SAP have worked together for more than 20 years. The Hitachi solution for the SAP HANA platform has been certified by SAP, so you know that your converged infrastructure will have the reliability you've come to expect from both SAP and Hitachi.

Hitachi Data Systems Can Help

Choosing a converged infrastructure solution from Hitachi for your SAP HANA platform implementation can help you reap the benefits of real-time decision-making with predictable reliability and scalability, and the fastest time to value. Together, we achieve these results by creating a streamlined, tightly integrated turnkey platform that provides the infrastructure you need and the resilience, reliability and speed your enterprise demands.

We know that when it comes to the value of moving to a converged infrastructure, seeing is believing. With that in mind, we offer a free one-day workshop with Hitachi Consulting so you can learn how our converged infrastructure for SAP HANA platform gives you real-time decision-making with mission-critical reliability.

To learn more about how Hitachi Data Systems can provide the foundation for your SAP HANA platform implementation and to schedule your free workshop, please contact an authorized Hitachi sales representative.

@Hitachi Data Systems

Corporate Headquarters
2845 Lafayette Street
Santa Clara, CA 95050-2639 USA
www.HDS.com community.HDS.com

Regional Contact Information
Americas: +1 866 374 5822 or info@hds.com
Europe, Middle East and Africa: +44 (0) 1753 618000 or info.emea@hds.com
Asia Pacific: +852 3189 7900 or hds.marketing.apac@hds.com

