

Ajinomoto System Techno - iStorage

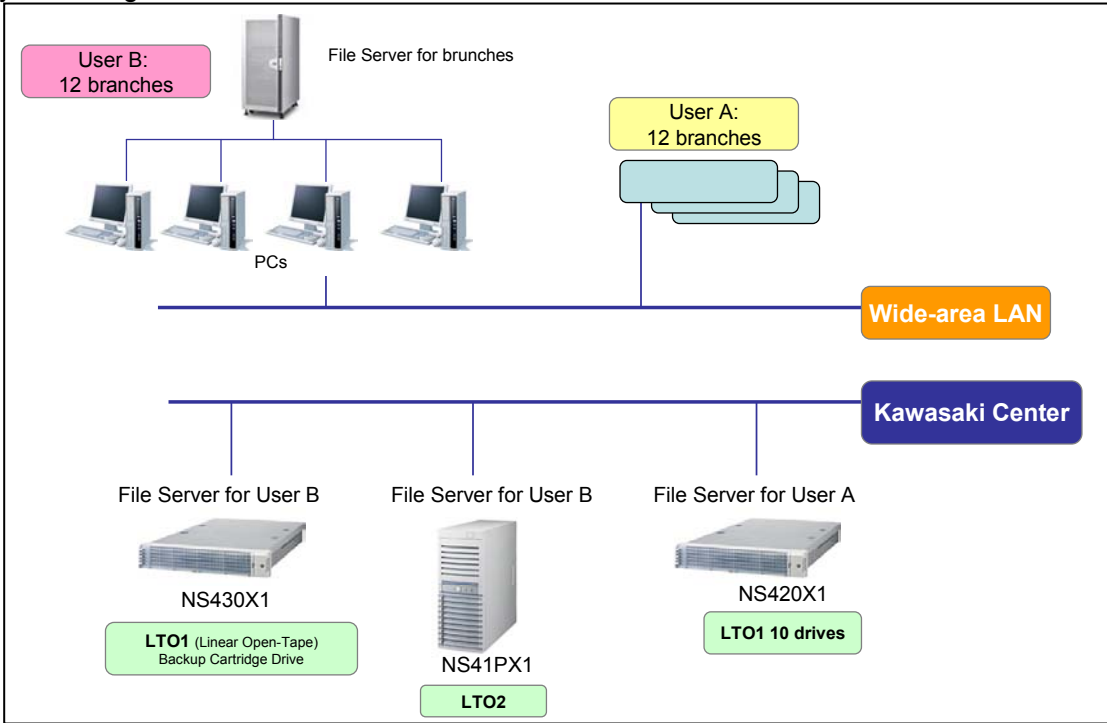
- **Implement a NAS system with iStorage NS series to handle ever-increasing data storage requirements.**

System Overview

Business data is increasing explosively due to growth of the Internet and development of broadband. In this environment, NAS (Network Attached Storage) is often used as a file server for businesses because it is easy and reasonable to install.

Ajinomoto Techno System provides integration and outsourcing services to Ajinomoto organizations and other companies. The company installed NEC iStorage NS series to support growth of data for their users. It took only two weeks to build the company's large scale NAS system.

System Diagram



Three of the iStorage NS series, NS41P, NS420, and NS430, are located at Ajinomoto System Techno Kawasaki Center. Over 500 end users access the system through a wide-area LAN.



**System Administration Center
Chief IT Specialist
Satoshi Saito**

Business data is increasing explosively due to the growth of the Internet and development of broadband networks. Consolidating data effectively is necessary as the volume of data increases. Since speed is a key to success in business, it is mandatory to add and manage the storage as quickly as possible.

Ajinomoto System Techno provides integration and outsourcing services for the Ajinomoto Group and other companies. Its increasing need for storage reflects the industry trend.

The company introduced the NAS system to one of their users for whom the company provides system operations.

“The user had been running out of storage on their file servers since the beginning of 2003. They were managing to handle it with backup file space, but the data on the file server grew faster than they expected,” said Mr. Saito who is a chief IT specialist at

Ajinomoto System Techno.

Furthermore, the user decided to establish a new department and they realized that there was no extra storage space for it. That meant they needed to hurry and build the NAS system quickly.

“We gave ourselves a little extra space back then, but we were handling more files including macro data, and this resulted in an explosive increase in data. It hasn't stopped yet, and we needed to add disk space quickly, otherwise it would have interfered with our business,” said Mr. Saito.

Purposes of Introduction

NEC's NS Series with experience and quick support

The request for the file server expansion came in June of 2003 and the new department would start operations in July. It was necessary to install a Windows Server-based system, but the schedule was too tight. The company decided to build a NAS system instead because it does not require as detailed a configuration and software installation. Also the current network did not need to be modified, and it is easy to build and start running quickly.

The company chose NEC's NAS system “iStorage NS Series.” The key factors in choosing the product were that 1) this series has been used as a file server in the company and 2) the company is satisfied with NEC's quick support for over three hundred Express Servers.

Currently over five hundred people have been using three of the NS series storage devices with Microsoft's “Windows Storage Server 2003” through the network (see the diagram).

“I was in charge of this project. This was the second server that I handled after I started working here but the whole process went smoothly. There was little software to be installed and the only thing



**System Administration Center
Takayuki Maruyama**

required to do before transferring the data was testing the backup software. It took only two weeks to start running the system after the product was delivered," said Mr. Maruyama who works in the System Administration Center.

Future Prospects

Started in two weeks, improved stability and reduced operational overhead

The system has been running for more than half a year and the NS series has not had any problems. Windows Storage Server 2003 is highly praised. According to Mr. Saito, "One of the important factors in stabilizing the system is Windows Storage Server 2003 which specializes in file server services and storage functions." Mr. Maruyama said, "Shutdown requires selecting a reason on 2003. This is a small thing, but it is very efficient to prevent mistakes. Management is also simple, and it is very easy for a person who does not have lots of experience to manage the system."

If the file operations from client machines, such as mapping, changed or became complicated because of the system change, users would not be happy. But since the NS series is based on Windows, the operations are the same as before. Thus, the end users do not even notice the server change and they are very satisfied.

In addition, operation is so simple that the administration burden is reduced. "The previous file server used third-party software and it was very complicated to solve problems when errors occurred. But the NS series has all the functions for file server integrated and it is very easy to troubleshoot the error. Also, the management tool "ESMPRO" can be used for NS series as well as Express server so that it makes operations much easier. NS series supports quarterly management which controls disk space assignment. This function is very useful for space management, so we would like to utilize it more in the future", said Mr. Maruyama.

User data will continue to increase. The company is considering replacing all their file servers with NAS systems. "From now on, we will need large scale of enterprise NAS systems with disks larger than a few terabytes in order to support access from more than five thousand users. The bigger the file storage requirements, the more the demands for quick expansion, high stability, and ease of operation increase. We expect NEC to provide NAS products which can meet our demands", Mr. Saito said.

Utilizing stored data effectively is becoming the key factor for businesses to be able to survive. iStorage NS series will make a significant contribution for growing businesses as a system infrastructure.

Ajinomoto System Techno Corporation Profile

Company Name:	Ajinomoto System Techno Corporation
Established:	1990 January 31
Headquarter:	1-1 Suzuki-cho, Kawasaki-ku, Kawasaki 210-0801, Japan
Employees:	310 (as of August, 2003)
Overview:	The company was separated from Ajinomoto Information System Department and provides SI services for Ajinomoto group and other companies. The company is deploying system business based on the experience which is acquired within the Ajinomoto groups.

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