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Windows Server 2008



Microsoft Visual Studio 2008

Microsoft

SQL Server 2008



**ALLAHABAD BANK**

(A Govt. of India Undertaking)  
A tradition of trust

[www.allahabadbank.in](http://www.allahabadbank.in)

**Company:** Allahabad Bank

**Web Site:** [www.allahabadbank.in](http://www.allahabadbank.in)

**Customer Size:** 20,000

**Country or Region:** India

**Industry:** Banking

**Partner:** Microsoft Technology Center

**Partner Web Site:** [www.microsoft.com](http://www.microsoft.com)

#### Company Profile

Allahabad Bank, the oldest public sector Bank in India, has a wide network of branches spread across the country. Allahabad Bank was established in the year 1865. In addition to serving domestic customers, Allahabad Bank also provides a wide range of attractive Deposit Schemes to Non-Resident Indians.

#### Software and Services

- Microsoft Visual Studio 2008
- SQL Server 2008
- Windows Server 2008 Standard
- Microsoft .NET Framework 3.5

#### Hardware

- Dell Power Edge 1955 Blade Server
- Quad Core Xeon @ 1.6 GHz Processor
- 4 GB ECC RAM | 1000 Mbps NIC
- 2 x 146 GB SAS HDD in RAID-1
- Cisco PIX Hardware Firewall

For more information about other Microsoft customer successes, please visit:

[www.microsoft.com/india/customerevidence](http://www.microsoft.com/india/customerevidence)

## Allahabad Bank Enhances Website Security and Manageability With System Upgrade

**“With Windows Server 2008 we will achieve a more integrated and manageable infrastructure. It will also bring us enhanced performance and productivity advantages.”**

Mr. Shrawan Kumar, GM- IT, Allahabad Bank

*The Government of India guidelines required Allahabad Bank to shift its Web servers located in US to India. The servers were to be physically located in India. Keeping in view the aspects of the GOI guidelines, Allindia Technologies, which is the website service provider for the Bank, proposed a seamless process for shifting and hosting of the websites and web contents of the Bank from servers located in the US to Indian locations. The Bank will leverage Microsoft technologies such as Windows Server 2008 and SQL Server 2008 to create reliable and scalable IT infrastructure. These technologies will provide better manageability, stability and most importantly improved security as compared to the infrastructure presently used in the Web servers located in the US.*

#### Business Needs

Allahabad Bank is the oldest public sector Bank in India having commenced operations on April 24, 1865. The Bank has its head office in Kolkata. On July 19, 1969 the Government of India nationalized the Bank, along with 13 other commercial Banks. As of December 2007 the Bank's business has crossed Rs.1,10,000 crores.

The principal activities of the Bank are to

provide general banking, treasury operations and parabanking activities like selling third party products i.e. insurance and mutual funds etc. The Bank accepts deposits, offers loans and provides other financial related services. The Bank provides short and long term loans to agricultural, small-scale industries and other priority sectors.

In February 2007, the Bank opened its first overseas branch in Hong Kong. At present,



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was often slow, disruptive and required manual interventions. Also, code deployment was time consuming and slowing down development turnarounds for frequent application upgrades. At the end of day, data upload was a manual process with delays and difficulties in the enforcement of strict timelines. In addition, maintaining and managing the pervasive database was becoming a time consuming and costly affair.

"These limitations forced the regulatory environment to re-look at the application architecture," says Manager, Sahara India Financial Corporation Limited. "Some of the other requirements were faster development turnarounds for the frequent application changes, simplifying and streamlining application deployment and updates."

The application re-engineering is being taken up to meet the ever changing business needs of the group.

## Solution

In September 2007, SIFO decided to upgrade its IT environment to Microsoft Windows Server 2008, Microsoft SQL Server 2008 and Visual Studio 2008. "We wanted to make use of the capabilities of the .NET Framework 3.5," says Manager, Sahara India Financial Corporation Limited. "In addition, we wanted the new application to make use of Web services and database replication for distribution of masters and centralization of branch data."

The application will be developed using Visual Studio 2008 and application functionality would be implemented using WCF and WPF technologies. The company will benefit from the rapid application development environment available while

using Visual Studio 2008. SQL Server 2008 Enterprise Edition will consolidate all the databases at the head office, and SQL Server 2008 Express Edition at the branches.

SQL Server 2008 qualified as an appropriate technology that would provide the desired stability, scalability and performance. Moreover, the application being mission critical, demanded a reliable, feature rich database that can scale up to more than 1700 branches. SQL Server's Reporting Services will be used for generating scheduled reports as well as ad hoc reports.

## Benefits

### Reduced Maintenance

SIFO's new operating system will require fewer updates than the previous system, which will result in dramatic time saving for the company. "Low-touch deployment and updates will reduce the management effort and costs," says Manager, Sahara India Financial Corporation Limited. The application will streamline data exchange between the branches and the head office including automatic distribution of master updates from HO to branches, upload of transaction data to HO, and simplified data consolidation and availability of reports in real-time.

### Quick and Easy to Deploy

The application will be quick and easy to deploy even in remote, unconnected environment because the deployment will be done through ClickOnce technology. ClickOnce supports the deployment of WPF Web Browser Applications. WPF Web Browser Applications are hosted in a Web browser and therefore require special deployment and security settings. Visual Studio 2008 will provide appropriate user

interface and default values for deploying these applications.

### Improved Performance

Developers will now be more productive and will also be able to solve complex business problems faster and with less effort. The use of Visual Studio 2008 will accelerate the development of solutions on Microsoft software and will allow users to leverage its capabilities as an application platform. "For example, with the implementation of the new infrastructure, four people can develop a module in one month," says Manager, Sahara India Financial Corporation Limited. "Earlier it would have taken much greater effort and a longer time with the same number of people."