



## China Post to build six key applications with Red Flag Linux

August 19, 2005

### Project overview :

China Post business is diversified and complex with most of them being the basic items serving the mass people and the features of these project require to have efficiency, speed and wide coverage(there must be post service wherever there are people). To speed up the development of business, the national post office started to spearhead the informatization road since 1990s' by establishing a complete info system based on UNIX. After the turn of century, its business developed by leaps and bounds with the external competition getting stronger and stronger. The original systems can no longer satisfy the IT construction demand of post telecom in new era with the systems needing to be upgraded. At the very beginning of system upgrade, the Red Flag company put forward a whole set of solutions in combining the characteristics of post industry as well as post applications bases on the product advantages of Red Flag company. The National Post Office has very high requirement over the technical index in IT construction, conducting technical assessment on many software and hardware vendors including Red Flag company before the bidding process. The result of assessment showed that Red Flag company's products were the top ranking and its technical services in China were also highly acknowledged by the leaders of the National Post. Thus, Red Flag beat all the other rivals and the National Post decided to build its key businesses upon Red Flag's Linux OS platform and this work started from 2003. U till now, there have been six major key application deployed on Red Flag's Linux server platform.

- The core business of post service

The operational system of the central bureau is an important component of post's comprehensive network system. According to the four basic functional divisions of post production (receiving and mailing—processing—transportation—delivery), the tasks of the

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central post bureau is to process and transport the mails, acting as a mail processing center of one area and also the core business of the whole post service.

The production system of the central bureau will not merely have to fulfill the digitalized, automated and IT-based operations and management of post production system within certain posting area, but also to architect a national unified post production network system on top of that. Hence, such a system is not just production system within one specific area, but more like an organic component of mail transport, handing-over, production, data and business inquiry and information exchange systems among central bureaus nationally, undertaking the important tasks of logistics and data stream processing for bureaus and stations.

The final target of constructing the central bureau's production system is to realize the automated production, networked info processing, e-management of archives and scientific production management within the 210 central post bureaus across the country, materializing the networked connections of each sub-application systems in central bureau's production system and stable, open and scalable network connections among different central bureaus, facilitating the stable and reliable data exchange with other application systems in the post comprehensive network, making it possible for info sharing once it has been input so as to increase the post service's quality and management levels.

- E-branch of post service

The target of building e-branch of post service is to establish a highly efficient, standardized, secure and scalable production system by leveraging the advanced computer technology and network as well as data communication technologies, enabling the e-branches of post service to become the carrier of post business processing, realizing the info resources' comprehensive utilization and sharing through centralized storage of data and centralized processing of applications, increasing the serviceability and usability of the system and ultimately further improve the management and service levels of post service, reinforcing the company's competitiveness.

- The post financial core business

The computer network system of China Post finance was built since 1993, lasting for about ten

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years that was divided into two construction phases. So far, a national center and 31 provincial centers have been constructed, realizing the express deposits and withdrawals across the country. The post banking computer network system has been steadily expanded, playing an important role in developing post financial business, improving service quality and upgrading productivity. However, with the further progress of the work, the existing computer network system's structure and scale can no longer meet the requirements. The essential reason is that "there are too many software versions of post financial computer network system with significant disparity in the software level". Therefore, the National Post Office made the decision to unify the green-card application software versions and in 2003, it compiled a new technical plan on application demand and new systems, the target of which is to establish a nationally unified application software system for post savings business with the basic accounting data to be centralized stored and processed at provincial centers. The project is expected to be completed in two years and this system will be able access other business systems in the form of platform or front-end devices and enable the interconnection with the national data convergence at the next stage.

The construction target of renovation project on expanding the computer system of post savings is to realize the unification of core business application software of the national post savings computer system through the renovations on the computer systems in 31 provinces (cities and autonomous regions) so as to increase the response speed to market and market competitiveness of post savings service.

- Post insurance business

With the continuous and steady growth of national economy, financial value-added services like insurance and fund showed strong momentum of fast development. It is of critical significance for the China Post to grasp the opportunities of insurance business development and instantly occupy the insurance agency market by constructing the computer system of the Post's insurance agency business. To this end, the National Post Office decided to build up a computer system for insurance agency business, working out application demands and an overall technical plan in 2003, whose target is to construct nationally unified real-time insurance policy issuance

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system with the data to be stored at provincial centers, being able to sell insurance policies for different insurance companies. The project will last two years and as the management organization, the national center will mainly be engaged in collecting the data from each province's insurance system, providing statistics inquiries and overall analysis. The system will be constructed and promoted by the National Post Office that will be good for speedy development and promotions across the nation, supporting the nationally unified new business development planning and marketing strategies. In addition, the computer system of insurance agency business fully considers the effective connection with the unified savings system as well as the real-time and smooth info exchange, providing the functions of selling policies through saving deposit accounts.

- Historical data of post savings business

The historical data system of post savings will be able to interconnect other business systems in the form of platform or front-end devices, enabling the organic linking with the national data convergence at the next stage. The historical data storage and inquiry sub-systems of unified versions of post savings computer system is an important part of post savings system and its target is to complete the storage and inquiry of historical data as well as the filing management of archive data functioning as the auxiliary system of the national center and computer system in 31 provinces(cities and autonomous regions), helping to alleviate the load of mainframe for core business and ensure its operational efficiency.

- The international express mails by post

With China's entry to the WTO, the well-known express delivery companies rushed into China to carry out business operations with the original EMS business of China Post decreasing from 90% to 70% in terms of market share. Thus, it is a must to transform the original work flows and business systems in order to reinforce its competitiveness.

The above systems cover the various aspects of post service sector including the fundamental core business, financial core business, newly explored insurance business, the auxiliary financial business and EMS business. All these systems are the key ones serving each provinces of the country, requiring to have good real-time and reliable features. Based on this, the Red Flag

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company fully gave a play to its product advantages (open, stable, high-performance and highly secure) in assisting to increase the production efficiency of post industry and guarantees the continuous operation by 7 x 24 hours through the high usable products of Red Flag company.

These nation-wide projects are very huge and complex with complicated technical support. At the initial stage when Red Flag company was established, it has established a large after-sale service team engaged in providing customers with support service plans on computer software management catering to the needs of business development, aiming to help customers realize the computer-aided resource management and improvement of system environment, facilitating the more stable and efficient operations of customers' information system. All these work have to be completed by Red Flag's technical support engineers and RCE ( Red Flag Certified Engineer ) by means of telephone interview, on-site interview, emergency support and well planned system upgrade. The biggest benefit for customers is to spend more of their time on their business development and explorations instead of getting busy with handling the info systems.

### Customer requirements :

- ✧ All the business systems of post industry are key projects of the national system. In order to better satisfy the current and future requirements, it is better to fully utilize the existing resources and the design, development, implementation and operation of this system will abide by the following principles:
- ✧ Practicability : To put the satisfaction of basic business requirement on the top priority
- ✧ Openness :The system design will follow the industrialized standard and support the software and hardware complying with industry and international standards.
- ✧ Unification: To follow the principles of unified planning, unified technical standard and unified business criteria in the course of construction.
- ✧ Scalability : Apart from considering to adapt to the current business requirements, the system should also think of future business development.
- ✧ Reliability and security: The system is required to guarantee the continuity of each business system as well as the integrity and consistency of business data, while certain security

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measures must be provided in the system on software and hardware to ensure the system's stable and secure operations.

- ✧ Advanced tech: : The technologies to be adopted in the engineering construction must be advanced and sophisticated.

#### **Solutions and deployment :**

Through the detailed analysis on the applications and system structure of each post business systems, in order to satisfy customer needs, ensuring the system functions and make hem reach the best price-performance and abide by the principle of exerting system functions, the Red Flag company offered solutions for the project adopting RedFlag DC Server + RedFlag HA Server. And to ensure the non-stop service for business system by 7x24 hours, the business mainframe forms a high available clustering system in the mode of Active/Active with mutual backup function by using Red Flag's HA software. As one mainframe breaks down, the other mainframe will take over the applications from the down machine, running two applications on it and provide services at the same time. As the failed mainframe resumes to normal operation, the applications running on it will return to this machine and the system will be back to balance. Thus, it makes full use of system resources and ensure the high usability of system. The following chart is a topology of production system:

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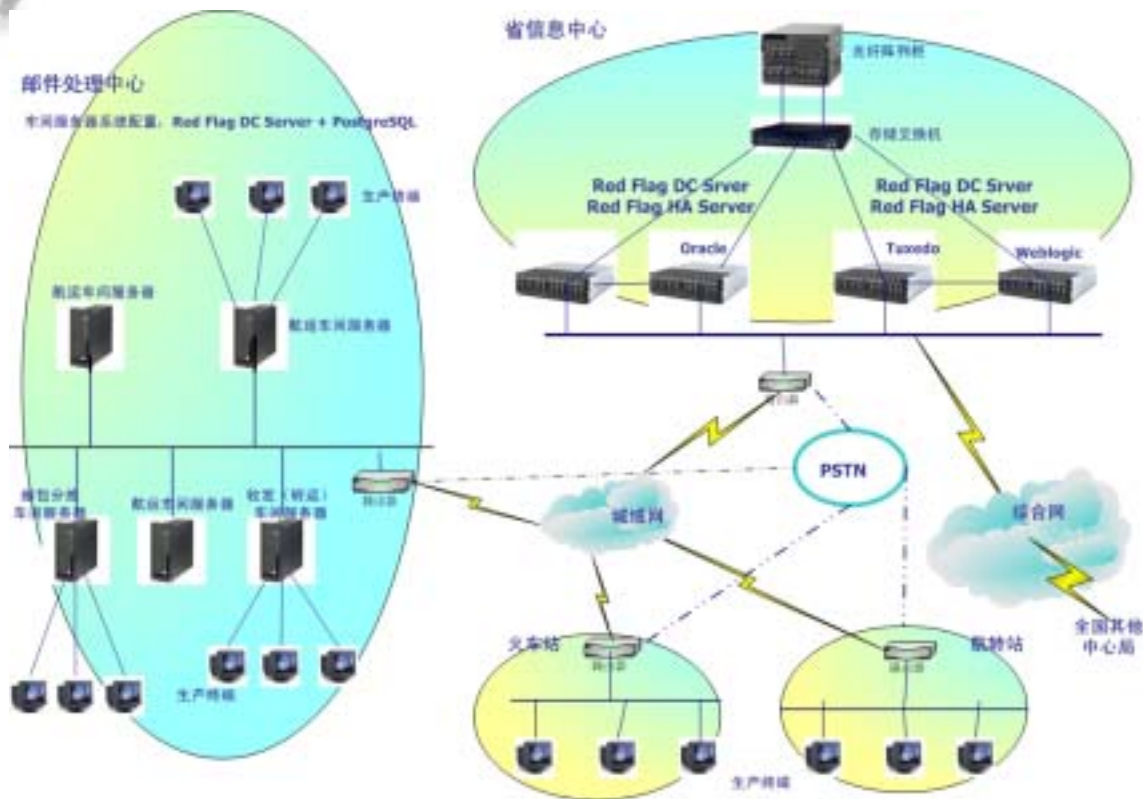
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邮件处理中心: mail processing center

省信息中心: provincial information center

生产终端: production terminal

火车站: railway station

存储交换机: storage switch

城域网: MAN

全国其他中心局: other central bureaus across the country

航运车间服务器: servers in air shipping workshops

收发(运转)车间服务器: servers in receiving and delivering(transporting) workshops

路由器: routers

综合网: comprehensive network

航转站:shipping stations

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### **Versions/models of software and hardware products :**

Software platform : RedFlag DC Server, RedFlag HA Server, Oracle 9i, BEA Weblogic, BEA TUXEDO

Hardware platform : since they are all national large projects, it adopts the hardware of three international vendors: IBM X25, HP DL380, and DELL 6650

Storage device : IBM FastT , EMC、 HP

### **Effects evaluations :**

The IT construction of National Post Office will be developing very fast in the next few years while the content of post services will also get diversified with ever expanding service ranges. The demand on quality is getting higher and therefore, it is very important to select and develop outstanding, sophisticated and practical business systems that really meet the requirements of post industry. After the authentications and testing by experts from the National Post Office, the Red Flag's technology and software products have all reached quite high level, being able to satisfy the strict requirement on OS by post systems. The professional technical support and highly experienced service system will also ensure the normal operation of the project and support the applications of e-post with comprehensive functions. Hence, the National Post Office finally decided to select the Red Flag company as its long-term partner to promote the development of our country's post industry. The non-stop operation in 365 days a year of the six key applications of post sector demonstrated the high reliability and maturity of Red Flag's Linux server products. Its state-of-the-art core tech, the proved high quality and the nationwide service system have won customers' trust and recognition.

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