

CASE STUDY

Stratus Mexico Provides Smooth Stratus ftServer V Series Migration with INETCO BankLink

The Stratus Technologies Global Network

Stratus Technologies is dedicated to helping customers in industries such as financial services, retail, and telecommunications build and sustain reliable information systems that support their critical business processes.

Established partnerships with global distributors such as Stratus Technologies Mexico S.A. de C.V. (Stratus Mexico) make it possible to deliver products and solutions on a worldwide basis. These Stratus Technologies partners carry a well-earned reputation amongst their global customers for delivering end-to-end solutions and top-performance systems with industry-leading uptime.

Reseller relationships with leading software solution providers such as INETCO Systems Limited enables Stratus Technologies and its partners to confidently guarantee the reliability of their end-to-end customer solutions. These relationships provide specific expertise and products in areas, such as gateway communications and protocol connectivity for Point-of-Sale (POS) and Automated Teller Machine (ATM) payments networks, where the potential harm from service disruption is high.

The Challenge

A Latin American banking customer of Stratus Mexico (the Bank) knows from first-hand experience the value of the Stratus Technologies Global Network.

Since the early 1990's, Stratus Continuum Servers had been a part of the Bank's ATM network architecture. The Bank was interested in upgrading these servers to the Stratus ftServer V Series, a server developed by Stratus Technologies that supports the VOS operational platform and offers up to eight times the performance of the Stratus Continuum Server.

Operating an interbank network of nearly 700 ATMs, the impact of service disruptions, protocol conversion issues and transaction failures on the flow of commerce was a number one concern. If the upgrade was going to impact the flow of commerce or the existing transparency to the multiple third party EFT processors it could not proceed. A very reliable, multi-protocol TCP/IP communications gateway was needed.

The Proposed Solution

Stratus Mexico looked to INETCO Systems Limited to provide a communications gateway solution that offered protocol conversion, transaction aggregation, multiple host support, and extensive network management capabilities. In the solution proposed by Stratus Mexico, INETCO BankLink acted as a front-end communications gateway for the new Stratus ftServer V Series, providing a common TCP/IP interface to all ATM legacy protocols used by the Bank. In addition to communications-level protocol conversion, BankLink was able to provide the message-level ASCII to EBCDIC conversion required for the Bank's environment.

"INETCO's BankLink solution and expertise were critical in allowing us to provide the server migration in the shortest amount of time and in the least disruptive manner possible. BankLink let us concentrate completely on the server migration, eliminating any need for us to deal with connectivity issues. With the products and support INETCO provides, we're confident that we have the right partner to repeat this success with other Continuum customers."

JUAN-PABLO GONZALEZ
DIRECTOR GENERAL
STRATUS TECHNOLOGIES MEXICO, S.A. DE C.V.



ABOUT STRATUS TECHNOLOGIES

Stratus Technologies is a global solutions provider focused exclusively on helping its customers achieve and sustain the availability of information systems that support their critical business processes. Based upon its 25 years of expertise in server and services technology for continuous availability, Stratus is a trusted solutions provider to customers in manufacturing, life sciences, telecommunications, financial services, public safety, transportation and logistics, and other industries. For more information, visit: www.stratus.com.





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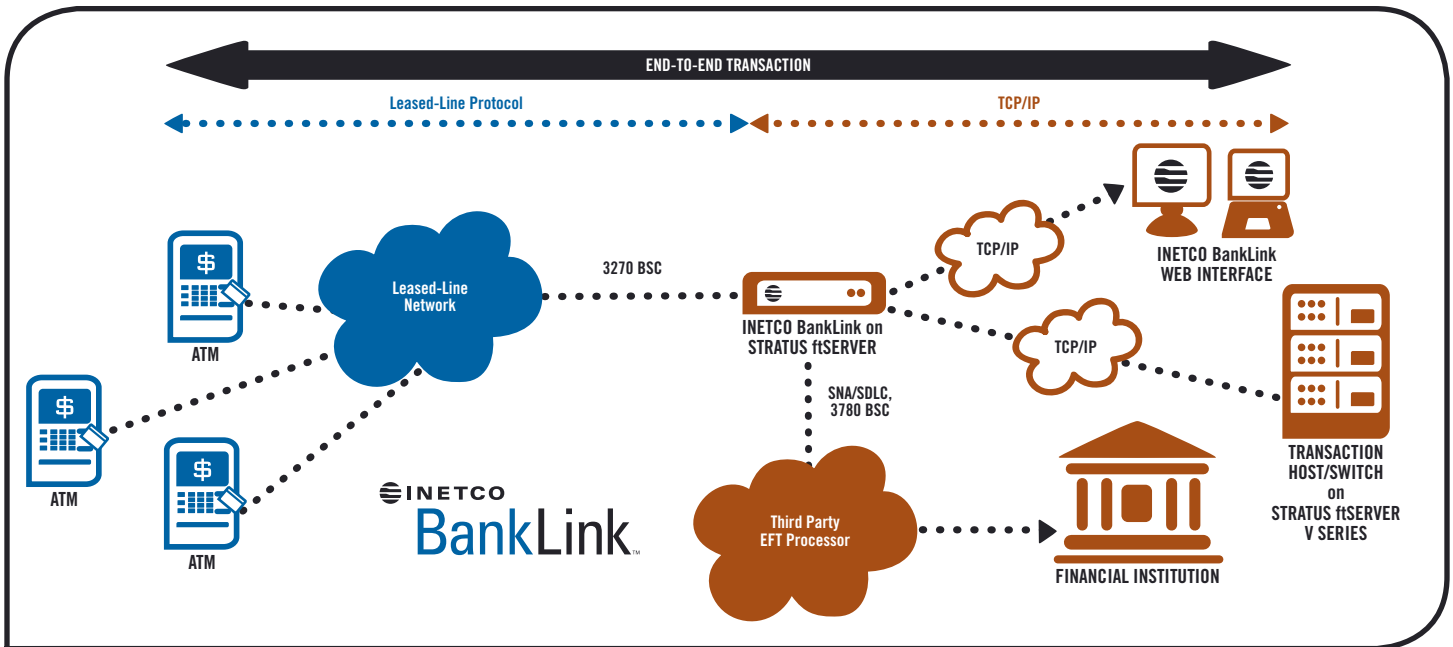
The Outcome

Through the inclusion of INETCO BankLink as a part of their overall solution, Stratus Mexico solved its protocol conversion issues, eliminated the risk of service disruption, got the green light to proceed from the Bank, and was free to concentrate on migrating its Stratus Continuum Servers to the Stratus ftServer V Series. Changes during the migration were contained to the banking data center, making the upgrade completely transparent to the ATMs and the third party EFT processors.

BankLink successfully provided the required TCP/IP interface and flexible protocol configuration for the Stratus ftServer V Series to interface with the legacy protocols used for the Bank's 700 ATMs, transaction hosts/switches, and third party EFT processors. Together with INETCO, Stratus Technologies and Stratus Mexico were able to successfully deliver a risk-free, end-to-end server migration solution that addressed the Bank's unique integration challenges. The Bank is now utilizing the new Stratus ftServer V Series to increase performance with higher processing power, lower maintenance costs, and wider application support.

THE RESULTS

- A controlled migration to the Stratus ftServer V Series
- Delivery of a reliable, end-to-end solution
- No service disruptions
- Guaranteed protocol connectivity



BankLink deployment: Stratus Continuum Servers used by the Bank connect to ATMs using 3270 BSC and to third party EFT processors using 3780 BSC, SNA/SDLC primary, and SNA/SDLC secondary. To replace the Stratus Continuum Servers with the Stratus ftServer V Series, a multi-protocol, TCP/IP communications gateway such as BankLink was needed.



INETCO Systems Limited creates business transaction intelligence solutions to help companies manage the performance of customer facing applications. The Company's core technology, INETCO

Insight, provides both real-time transaction information and historical trending analytics to quickly identify issues impacting business critical processes, payment revenue streams, and the online customer experience. A recognized technology leader in the TCP/IP payment transactions space, INETCO products are currently deployed within financial, retail, and telecommunications IT environments in over 50 countries. INETCO is based in Vancouver, British Columbia. www.inetco.com

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