

21ViaNet (China) Enhanced internal financial management

21ViaNet (China), Inc is the largest integrated-infrastructure carrier in China focusing on providing value added communications services to corporations, Internet companies, government agencies and not -forprofit organizations.

Since its foundation in 1995, 21ViaNet has become the second largest IP traffic carrier in China following only China Telecom. It is headquartered in Beijing with operations in Beijing, Shanghai and Shenzhen that provide world class facilities and high speed networks.

Its Internet data center (IDC) services won the top ranking 'four-star IDC' in a service evaluation by CCID, the major Chinese IT information service. It was also the first network that received 'Cisco Powered Network' certification in China. It is the only network service provider (NSP) in China to receive ISO9002 certification, demonstrating its focus on quality management systems.

Because of rapid expansion, 21ViaNet needed to put in place a formal board, legal and financial structure to meet with international standards. Its rather primitive manual accounting method was not able to keep pace with the new requirements of a growing business. With so many variables including customers, employees and products, proper accounting was a challenge. Analysis and control of assets, revenue and expenses is crucial to every corporation. Only those that can control internal finance properly and react quickly to changes can survive the volatility of the competitive environment.

21ViaNet received international venture capital in 2000 and needed a powerful financial system to enhance its internal financial management. It decided to deploy SunSystems as its financial management solution, because of the product's reputation in the market. In August 2000, supporting four users, the entire SunSystems suite, including ledger accounting, multi-currency, fixed asset register and corporate allocations, were installed on 21ViaNet's servers. A year later, the number of SunSystems users increased to eight.

"As an IDC, our business is changing rapidly. Therefore we needed a flexible system like SunSystems to accommodate our business," said Mr Shen Peng, finance manager of 21ViaNet China. "We needed a financial solution that could analyze and manage business transactions, internal assets, budget, expenses and income, and make accounting management and querying more simple."

In the past, manual accounting was tedious, time-consuming and inaccurate. Whenever management required information about the expenses of different departments, or expense details within each department, accounting staff needed to reorganize the accounting data before the required reports could be run.

With SunSystems' powerful analysis feature, 21ViaNet can now create up to 10 static analysis dimensions for each category (such as account, department, employee, fixed asset, transaction and customer) and utilize SunSystems' dynamic analysis functions, which easily extract and combine any data for analysis through different directions and angles.

"With SunSystems, we can get information such as status of sales, inventory movements, cash flow and financial operation easily, and apply advanced management concepts in our daily work." Mr Shen said, "According to requirement, an analysis code can be assigned to every department and product, and the code can be up to 15 characters long. Such a detailed coding system enables the analysis of

Internet Services

Key requirements:

Able to adapt to rapid expansion

Considered due to SunSystems' reputation in China

Flexible to accommodate changing business

Strong analysis of information was key driver

Detailed coding structure enhanced reporting



Internet Services

SunSystems Modules:

- Ledger Accounting
- ➔ Multi-Currency
- ➡ Fixed Assets
- → Corporate Allocations

Database:

Oracle 8.1.6

Platform:

Windows 95

Industry Sector:

- Internet Services
- Technology

Geographic Locations:

China

accounting data in different dimensions, accurately reflecting the operation of every department and product. It can also generate and provide various management reports in time."

Fixed assets management is crucial to the development of every company. Providing various depreciation methods for each asset for the purpose of financial budgeting and tax payment, SunSystems' fixed asset register is a powerful tool for asset and depreciation analysis, helping customers manage all their properties.

"SunSystems' fixed asset register is unique, especially its detailed asset diary", Mr Shen said. "Tracking the evolution of an asset through its life can be a major headache for us. Enhancements, part disposals and divided locations all need to be accounted for. The fixed asset register features an excellent asset diary, providing life cycle histories for each capital asset to ensure effective monitoring and control. With the asset diary, we can track every aspect, both monetary and otherwise, in the acquisition and life cycle of all capital assets." 21ViaNet was also impressed by SunSystems' corporate allocations module. SunSystems can help the company automatically collect and allocate complex ledger and asset data. At the same time, costs can be charged to different ledgers, cost centers, projects, products or other categories. For example, manufacturing expenditures and production costs can be allocated to finished products. This automates complex tasks and dramatically simplifies the allocation of costs and charges in complex environments.

"What a customer needs is a reliable and stable software. The analysis, enquiry and reporting functions of SunSystems are very powerful and easy to learn. The software has helped us to put our financial management in perfect order in a short period of time," said Mr Shen. "As we expand, we plan to add more SunSystems users in order to strengthen our financial management."

www.21vianet.com

www.sunsystems.com