



Libelle

### First Bank of Nigeria

First Bank of Nigeria Plc, for over a century, has distinguished itself as a leading banking institution and a major contributor to the economic advancement and development of Nigeria.

With 339 branches spread throughout the Federation, the Bank maintains the largest branch network in the industry in Nigeria. FBN got listed on The Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE) in March 1971.

In 2001 the First Bank started a project to redesign the IT infrastructure in cooperation with IBM Africa and an IBM Partner – ROE Ltd. The cross functional project team from the First Bank, IBM and ROE had to fulfill different functional requirements. Beside a high performing environment they were faced by the topic of Disaster Recovery.

Therefore the team was looking for an overall approach to set up a reliable, stable and secure environment to protect their customer information, because the heart of First Bank is a concept, which drives the understanding of their brand. It captures the spirit of the personality and has its roots in their past, present and future.

#### Our essence is Dependably Dynamic

“Dependably Dynamic means that we will always be there for our customers in good and in bad times. It means that they can depend on us and that we will readily adapt to changing needs and requirements.”

The overall solution for the IT environment was designed by the project team. The application comes from Finacle, the Finacle Banking Solution. The infrastructure is based on IBM hardware and software as well as on the Oracle Database Management System. The first step was to protect the environment against hardware failures. This

was done by using Cluster Technologies from IBM, the HACMP Cluster for AIX. Further for the Disaster Recovery scenario the team decided to set up a second data center in a different place in Nigeria. So the First Bank has a site concept in place if something happens.

The two Data Centers are located in Lagos, Nigeria and Abuja, Nigeria. The challenge was to mirror the primary environment in Abuja to the secondary site in Lagos. In fact of the existing communication infrastructure in Nigeria that had to use a 2 Mbit fiber channel link.

After they considered the size of the two existing databases, currently 350GB and 500GB, the team recognized that traditional solutions may not fulfill these requirements so effectively.

Further they also want to be protected against logical errors. At this time the Libelle solution was the only possible way to fulfill the requirement of:

- Mirroring over long distance by less bandwidth
- Protect also against logical errors

IBM and the IBM Partner ROE Ltd. recommended Libelle to the First Bank of Nigeria. After analysing the existing environment as well as requirements, Libelle went to Nigeria, made a rapid implementation to solve this issue for the project team and therefore for the First Bank. Now it was possible to have an identical data center on the second site in Lagos.

In the case of a disaster the FBN can switch within minutes to the second data center – whatever happens.

*„BusinessShadow from Libelle is a very efficient and reliable solution for our Disaster-Recovery-Concept. It is stable and easy to use“*

Charles P. Ajinwo  
(Head, Abuja Data Center  
First Bank of Nigeria PLC.)



**Industrial Sector**  
Finance

**Application**  
Finacle Banking Solution

**Software**  
AIX  
HACMP  
Tivoli  
Oracle  
Libelle

**Hardware**  
pSeries  
ESS





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### BusinessShadow® Architecture

The solution **BusinessShadow** includes four components to provide an overall protection for environments and to make the operation as simple as it can.

The involved components protect databases and business critical files, further it allows you to switchover to the emergency server with no complicated handling of network features as IP addresses or hostnames.

The management of the entire solution can be done by using a Graphical User Interface or command line.

The four components are:

- **DBShadow®** to protect the database
- **FSShadow®** to protect the business critical files
- **SwitchApplication** to handle the switch over to the emergency site easily
- Graphical User Interface to manage the solution easily



With the very effective **BusinessShadow** long distance technology it is possible to handle databases from more than 800GByte over an only 2MBit fiber optic link.

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