

Study Group on Revitalization Policies of Data Centers in the Cloud Computing Age Summary of 1st Meeting

1. Date and Time

Tuesday, May 12, 2009; 10:00 – 12:00

2. Location

Special Conference Room 1, 8th floor, MIC, 2nd Building of the Central Common Government Office

3. Attendees (Honorifics omitted)

(1) Sub-Council Members

Hironobu Arima (substitute for Abe), Koichi Ise, Kozo ide, Hiroshi Ezaki, Yoichi Enomoto, Tosinori Kajiura, Shigeki Goto, Shinichi Aramaki (substitute for Sakuma), Shuichi Sasakura, Takao Shiino, Masamichi Suga, Akihiko Toshikiyo, Takashi Hirano, Kazuo Fujita, Naoya Bessho, Yoko Maeda, Takamichi Miyoshi

(2) MIC Representatives

Sakurai (Director-General, Information and Communications Bureau), Takeuchi (Director-General, Telecommunications Business Department), Ando (Director, Information and Communications Bureau), Fuchie (Director, Telecommunications Policy Division), Tahara (Director, Telecommunication Systems Division), Ando (Director, Advanced Information Systems and Software Division), Takamura (Deputy Director, Telecommunications Policy Division), Nishiura (Deputy Director, Advanced Information Systems and Software Division)

4. Agenda

- (1) Current status and issues
- (2) Future approach for review
- (3) Others

5. Meeting Summary

(Meeting guidelines)

- Agreed about the Secretariat-suggested document 1-1 “Study Group on Revitalization Policies of Data Centers in the Cloud Computing Age.”

(Selection of chairman and appointment of deputy chairman)

- Goto was selected as the chairman and appointed Ezaki as a deputy chairman.

(Secretariat's explanations)

- Secretariat explained document 1-2 "Background of Review."

(Member's presentation)

- Sasaki explained document 1-3 "NTT Com's data Center Business."
- Fujita explained document 1-4 "About Cloud Computing."

The main statements are as follows:

- Member

It will become important to mutually exchange data among clouds. It seems that no carriers will establish Kasumigaseki clouds by themselves and it will become important not to make inconsistency from a technological viewpoint.

- Member

There are two concerns: one is traffic-based communication cost and the other is rights and obligations. I think there is one more concern about the relation between Internet and Intranet. The Internet has issues to be considered in terms of both traffic and rights and obligations. Intranet only has traffic-based communication cost purely. It is inevitable that corporations place their internal system environment at the portion where the optimum cost can be obtained, including costs of power and location requirements in risks. I think these three issues will be discussed.

- Member

It is necessary to examine and discuss how Japanese companies grow content or how they place data in domestic data centers in order to gather content in Japan and increase traffic from Japan. To do so, it is indispensable to show domestic and overseas companies how Japanese data centers are more advantageous than foreign countries from the viewpoint of power, such as uninterruptible power supply (UPS).

Is it also necessary to investigate a corporate sense, such as a single data center, a corporate cloud or general cloud, because of transition from data centers to clouds?

- Member

Discussions have been made from the viewpoint of communication carriers and users.

However, is the viewpoint of a business which is provided with content or services required?

In providing services, it was common to procure servers or infrastructure by itself. In the cloud age, it becomes a common model to rent networks, applications, servers or storages. In those days, they understood the risks of their own things. In the cloud age, however, it is assumed that such risks are collateralized by a cloud service provider. It is therefore necessary to understand that this is invisible.

○ Member

It is necessary to think whether it is correct to gather content in Japan or not. Like today's presentation, NTT Communications explained that international Disaster Recovery (DR) was used to make a business continuation plan (BCP). Such a global viewpoint will become very important.

We must think what facility is in a critical state when considering infrastructure design as international security.

○ Member

When considering onetime advertising markets, you paid money to a Japanese advertising company to run an advertisement in Japan. In these days, you unconsciously pay money to an American company through paid listing advertisement. Consequently, "invisible import" has been increasing. From a long-term point of view, it is my stating point of problem consciousness that data can affect the movement of goods.

Traffic is also significant. However, is it important that Japanese corporations obtain data control in term of how goods move through data exchange?

○ Member

While carriers that install their own servers want them to be differentiated, some end users are not conscious of such servers. It will become a challenge whether or not we show carriers a factor of differentiating a site.

○ Member

Considering what to do for the purpose of placing a data center in Japan, it is necessary to discuss how the domestic data center is valuable for end users or content providers and to review the possibility to follow up as a policy.

I guess the structure may change if Japanese advertising companies pay an advertising rate only for Japanese servers.

○ Member

Content is important to transmit services or content for Japanese users from a data center in Japan to foreign countries.

In those days when network cost was lower than operation cost for decentralized installation of servers, content was transmitted from Japan. In these days, however, we have to use overseas servers because of various rules for content.

It would be good to discuss restrictions on content that provides services, as well as infrastructure or network environment.

- Member

The image search service site launched is operated using the server installed in U.S.A. Because crawling, a behavior of gathering image, violates the Japanese copyright law. Only cost comes to an issue, except for these rules. In the cloud computing age, the situation like the port with a low cost, such as Incheon or Pusan, where more containers are handled, would occur.

- Secretariat

Focusing on discussions toward a wide range of common users, this study group was started because it was held according to the reports from the Panel on Internet Policy.

As we have many data center matters to discuss, please point out problems or issues extensively.

(Establishing a working group)

- Secretariat suggests the establishment of a working group based on the document 1-5 "Study Group on Revitalization Policies of Data Centers in the Cloud Computing Age." Once gaining approval from each member, the chairman will establish a working group in accordance with the opening guidelines.

6. Future plan

The next meeting will be held in the middle or at the end of July. Further information will be notified by Secretariat.

Secretariat also informs each member that the working group will be opened.