

The Essential CIO

Insights from the
Global Chief Information
Officer Study

Sichuan Earthquake Bureau

Using real-time data to monitor and mitigate quakes

Collate, analyze
and act on
real-time

data from dispersed sources, including over
200 monitoring stations, government centers,
on-site rescue workers and the general public

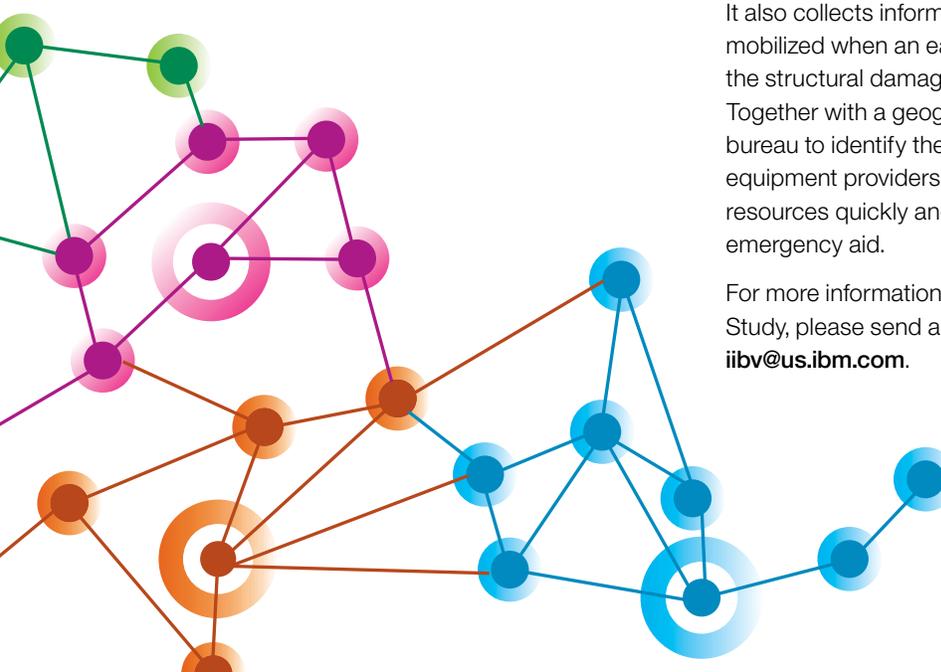
Sichuan Earthquake Bureau is the governmental body responsible for earthquake monitoring and prediction, and disaster mitigation in China's Sichuan Province. It has to gather and process seismic monitoring data and earthquake alerts from earthquake monitoring stations and research institutes all over the province. And, when an earthquake strikes, it has to dispatch personnel to the affected area to report on the damage and identify what rescue operations are required.

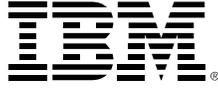
But, after the devastating Wenchuan earthquake in May 2008, which claimed the lives of over 65,000 people, the bureau realized that it needed better emergency response and relief mechanisms.¹ The existing warning and communications system had been disrupted, hampering coordination of the rescue efforts. So Sichuan Earthquake Bureau invested in a new earthquake disaster mitigation system.

With its new platform, the bureau can collate, analyze and act on real-time data from numerous widely dispersed sources. It collects seismic data from 200 monitoring stations, for example, as well as major earthquake alerts from the national earthquake administration and meteorological center, and damage reports, photos and rescue requests from on-site rescue workers or the general public via mobile devices and the Internet.

It also collects information on the rescue and relief resources that can be mobilized when an earthquake occurs (for example, engineers to assess the structural damage and devices for post-disaster search and rescue). Together with a geographic information system, the platform enables the bureau to identify the rescue, medical and technical specialists and equipment providers nearest each affected area and allocate these resources quickly and effectively, on receiving any request for rescue or emergency aid.

For more information about this case study or the IBM Global CIO Study, please send an email to the IBM Institute for Business Value at iibv@us.ibm.com.





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1 Hooker, Jake. “Toll Rises in China Quake.” *The New York Times*. May 26, 2008.
<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/05/26/world/asia/26quake.html>



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