

x10sure™ scales new heights in IT availability at the German Alpine Association:

A deep-down feeling of security



» Consolidation of our IT landscape with blade servers, storage systems and the high availability solution x10sure™ from Fujitsu Siemens Computers has not only had an advantageous impact on running costs and operational readiness, but also eliminated existing risks. That gives you a deep-down feeling of security. «

Klaus Vogler, Head of IT, German Alpine Association

→ The challenge

Sustained improvement in the availability of data, processes and applications, combined with an increase in efficiency and the cost-effectiveness of IT operation at the national head office of the German Alpine Association in Munich-Untermenzing.

→ The solution

Use of the advanced blade ecosystem PRIMERGY BX600 in conjunction with the high availability solution x10sure™

When Head of IT Klaus Vogler (37) looks at the installed server base at the national head office of the German Alpine Association, he has to look a little closer. Whereas the scene used to be dominated by quite a few heavyweight servers, one PRIMERGY BX600 server with eight server blades in a 19-inch rack now does their work. It is designed to administer around 750,000 members, support a diverse Internet platform, run ERP applications and provide communications and archiving services. So that all this is done smoothly, the German Alpine Association installed x10sure™, an innovative high availability solution that gives Klaus Vogler the deep-down security that nothing can go wrong



The German Alpine Association numbers around 750,000 members organized into 354 regional sections. A team of 50 employees supports these sections, cooperates with them to maintain more than 300 mountain huts and refuges, looks after around 20,000 kilometers of alpine paths, supervises 180 climbing facilities and records some 7 million day-hikers a year in the mountains: www.alpenverein.de

→ Solution components

- Creation of a high availability infrastructure for an SME association's IT
- Hardware: PRIMERGY BX600 blade server with 64-bit processor technology; FibreCAT SX80 with 4 GB/s Fibre Channel technology
- Software: Microsoft Dynamics NAV
- Middleware: x10sure™
- Operating system: Windows 2003 Server
- Database: MS SQL 2005

→ Customer benefits

- Assurance of high availability and reliability in IT operation
- Sharp reduction in hardware, license and maintenance costs
- Improved performance and optimized administration
- Minimization of risks
- Flexible upgrading and high scalability



→ Project description

End to a tightrope walk between costs and risks

Six years are a lot more in the fast-paced world of IT than the simple figure suggests. Head of IT Klaus Vogler saw that his previous servers at the data center had become ancient technology – and understood the consequences. One of them was a steady increase in administration overhead. A more serious factor was the lack of redundancy: it meant that security for stable system operation was inadequate. In addition, storage space was running out. The result was a situation that Klaus Vogler terms a »tightrope walk between costs and risks.« Putting an end to that was the goal of a project the German Alpine Association launched together with Fujitsu Siemens Computers and the system house GOB Software & Systeme.

The jointly created concept offers a future-proof foundation for the association's IT. Consolidation of the server landscape was achieved with a PRIMERGY BX600 on the latest blade technology. »High performance and maximum redundancy, yet minimum space requirements,« are the qualities ascribed by the Head of IT to his new hardware platform. The central FibreCAT SX80 storage system ensures sufficient storage space that can be scaled to meet needs. The expert's verdict: »Very reliable and fast.«

→ Project partner



→ Successes achieved

High availability with x10sure™

The association's most urgent concern – to ensure high availability and reliability in running its applications – is addressed in Munich by the x10sure™ solution. This is the name of a software product that monitors the blade server environment around the clock, detects problems and rectifies error situations by itself. It goes without saying that other concepts were looked at in Munich, for example pure clustering. However, closer analysis revealed this to be too expensive and complex.

In contrast, the x10sure™ concept convinced everyone right away. »An out-of-the-box solution that is easy to implement and use, with far lower capital and operating expenses compared with conventional 1:1 high availability set-ups,« is Vogler's assessment. And it's clear why: x10sure™ is based on a single redundant substitute system that can take over from all of the eight server units installed at the data center if there is a failure. »1:8 for fault tolerance,« is what IT expert Vogler calls this principle. And it's persuasive not just in terms of reliability, but also costs: »We need far less hardware!«

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