success²

Virtual Archiving Solution Standardizes and Improves Backup Management at PV Austria

THE CUSTOMER

Pensionsversicherungsanstalt (Pension Insurance Institution), Vienna, Austria

THE PROJECT

Consolidation of the storage and backup infrastructure

THE SOLUTION

2 x CentricStor 400, 8 x StorageTek 9940 drives

"CentricStor from Fujitsu Siemens Computers is the perfect data backup solution for us. Its unique connectivity lets us accommodate a wide range of servers and operating systems."
Director Herbert Hloupy, IT Management Division, Pensionsversicherungsanstalt

At the Pensionsversicherungsanstalt (PV) in Austria, which was created when two large social insurance carriers merged, two very different IT worlds literally collided. One of the main challenges for the IT managers was to consolidate the storage systems of the two environments in a cost-effective manner and to ensure the secure processing of huge data volumes. This challenge has been met with CentricStor from Fujitsu Siemens Computers and project expertise from Siemens Business Services.

The Customer

The Pensionsversicherungsanstalt, Austria's largest social insurance carrier, was established in January 2003 through the merger of the pension insurers for salaried (PVAng) and for non-salaried employees (PVArb). PV's customers include more than 4.3 million insured persons and pensioners, and it manages some 1.7 million pension accounts. In addition to its headquarters in Vienna, the PV maintains nine local offices and operates 17 health facilities. It employs a workforce of 6,660. To leverage potential synergies from the two IT landscapes, the number of data centers was reduced to two, and the software solutions were standardized.

FUJITSU SIEMENS COMPUTERS

The Project

The merger united two social insurance carriers – and their IT environments. The volume of data and security requirements of the Pensionsversicherungsanstalt have since increased considerably, as illustrated by a few figures: it serves some 2.7 million insured persons, it maintains 1.7 million pension accounts, and it manages an annual budget of around € 20 billion, second in size only to Austria's national budget. This highly sensitive collection of data is supported not just by an admin-istrative framework at headquarters and local offices, but also by a highly complex IT infrastructure – one that, for historical reasons, includes a variety of server and operating system platforms. Different systems are used at the PV, including AIX, SINIX, Windows and BS2000. These systems have to deal with queries, account changes, pension-related receipts, dis-bursements and new registrations every day. The old storage infrastructure that was used to archive the huge volumes of data was based on two StorageTek robots and a BS2000 archiving solution. The magnetic tape drives were directly con-nected to the mainframe system. The IT managers realized that this heterogeneous environment was far from efficient. The systems connected to the storage solution also tied up valuable resources, and backup times were terribly long. Backup and archiving on the physical storage media

entailed regular maintenance and thus higher costs. The PV therefore wanted to consolidate and standardize this landscape using a leading-edge, cross-platform storage concept.

The solution

Following a public invitation to tender, the customer chose Siemens Business Services as its project partner, with a solution concept based on CentricStor from Fujitsu Siemens Computers. This virtual archiving system was the only solution that met all the requirements. The key criteria were smooth integration in existing data center processes and support of the existing BS2000 systems. CentricStor is the heart of standardized data backup for all server systems. Data is first stored on high-performance hard disks and written from there to cartridges. This results in backup times that are 50 percent faster. Another benefit is the optimized exploitation of the storage space on the cartridges. The standardized archiving solution at PV is distributed across two data center locations, and it provides fault tolerance thanks to redun-dant components. Overloaded archiving systems are now a thing of the past at the Pensionsversicherungsanstalt because CentricStor can generate up to 512 virtual drives as needed.

Technical profile of the solution
- 2 x CentricStor 400, 1.2 terabyte cache
- 8 x StorageTek 9940, Fibre Channel

Benefits for the Pensionsvesicherungsanstalt
- Standardized archiving solution for uniting two system worlds
- Faster and shorter backup times thanks to a high throughput rate
- Reduction in the number of backup drives from 20 to eight
- Lower maintenance costs

Contact

Fujitsu Siemens Computers
Mag. Harald Flener
Dietrichgasse 27-29
1031 Vienna
Austria

Phone   +43 (0) 1 7 16 46 7 8 6 48
harald.flener@fujitsu-siemens.com