

Consolidation, Automation, Economy

AOK Bayern gears up for the IT of the future with Fujitsu Siemens Computers



» Fujitsu Siemens Computers has delivered the optimal solution in terms of technology and economy – that made our users happy too, since FUTRO gives them high-speed clients. «

Dr. Harald Wehnes and Emeran Pointner, AOK Bayern Project Managers

→ The challenge

To centralize the server landscape – AOK Bayern wanted to relocate the servers from some 50 locations to a single central site

To expand terminal server use – another goal was for terminal server operation use to be expanded to at least 90% of all workstations

To achieve efficient, high-availability operation – Distribution of the server infrastructure between two data centers and the realignment of system management made it possible to enhance overall operations

→ The solution

AOK Bayern, the health insurance market leader in Bavaria, Germany, has received numerous awards for its outstanding service. To build on this leadership position, AOK Bayern has put in place a future-oriented infrastructure, through the **modernization of its server and client operation**. On the one hand, this involved the centralization of servers from some 50 locations to create a high-availability infrastructure based on the **PRIMERGY BX600 Advanced Blade EcoSystem**. On the other hand, terminal server use was expanded by the introduction of **FUTRO Thin Clients** for 7,500 workstations. The new solution features a high level of automation for both data center operation and client management, which means significant savings for AOK Bayern. Another important benefit is that FUTROs provide users with compact space-saving, low-noise systems that boost productivity.



With some 4.2 million members, **AOK Bayern** is Bavaria's largest health-insurance provider and the fourth largest in Germany. AOK Bayern has repeatedly received praise for outstanding performance – for example, from Öko-Test, TÜV-Süd and Stiftung Warentest's Finanztest. More at: www.aok.de

→ Solution components

- Server consolidation and expanded use of server-based computing
- PRIMERGY BX600 Advanced Blade EcoSystem with approximately 350 server blades for Citrix® terminal server operation plus file, print, mail and database services with high-availability distribution between two data centers
- Operating system: Windows 2003 Server Standard and Enterprise editions
- 7,500 FUTRO Thin Clients with eLux NG and Scout Enterprise management software

→ Customer benefits

IT operation:

- Lowest roll-out costs. Phase I: 3,300 clients within four weeks at 50 locations
- Improved service quality plus lower administration and maintenance expenses
- More flexible IT operations

Economy:

- Significant reduction in overall costs
- High investment security

Users:

- Improved performance, better working conditions

→ The project

AOK Bayern's client-server operations were spread across 50 remote locations with approximately 25% of workstations supported by terminal servers. This decentralized structure resulted in exceptionally-high administration and maintenance costs. Since AOK Bayern's end-user IT equipment was nearing the end of its scheduled service life and a software upgrade to Microsoft® Windows® Server 2003 was planned for the immediate future, the company's management decided to take advantage of the opportunity to enhance its entire server and client infrastructure. The basic idea was to consolidate server operations, creating a single high-availability network at a single location and to expand the use of terminal servers to include 90% of all workstations. Following an international tender, AOK Bayern choose the offer submitted by Fujitsu Siemens Computers and MR Datentechnik, an authorized Fujitsu Siemens Computers service partner. The customer opted for the blade server technology of the PRIMERGY BX600 Advanced Blade EcoSystem. This system is designed for a continuous, efficient and agile IT operation, avoiding any single point of failure with a design minimizing complexity. Together with intelligent system management, the PRIMERGY BX600 not only cuts reaction time, but also costs. Therefore, blade servers were used to consolidate all of AOK Bayern's server services and terminal server applications, and high availability is guaranteed, since the new infrastructure is distributed between two data centers. The system is built around the central administration software for the FUTRO Thin Clients, Scout Enterprise. For users, end-of-life PCs were replaced by FUTRO Thin Client desktop units. Designed for terminal server operation, FUTROs offer exceptional security and availability plus long service life, by doing without moving parts such as fans, and feature an extremely space- and energy-saving design. The solution is managed via console-based administration and configuration and supports definition of administrator roles. High-availability functionality, scalability, open and well-documented interfaces and a connection to the existing active directory helped provide AOK Bayern with an economical path to quick and simple integration into its existing infrastructure.

→ A record of success

A reduction in the number of servers, simplified server and client management and lower maintenance expense for end-user devices all added up to significant savings. At the same time, AOK Bayern can now react faster and more flexibly to changes in requirements than in the past and has entered the world of dynamic IT. Users also benefit from drastically-reduced log-in and response times, more desk space, while the units' silent operation is a much-appreciated bonus. As AOK Bayern project managers Dr. Harald Wehnes and Emeran Pointner describe their experience: "Implementation was problem-free. There was no interruption of operation, and we achieved the desired results. The reliable service and spirit of cooperation exhibited by Fujitsu Siemens Computers and MR Datentechnik are what made that possible. The use of Thin Clients and TFT monitors has also drastically cut our energy Consumption, producing annual savings in the six-digit range."

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