

Rechenzentrum Leipzig adds dynamic performance to SAP infrastructure of Deutsche Rentenversicherung

Double the performance with same personnel



» We now handle twice the work with the same number of employees and the same budget. And the improvement in quality is noticeable: less downtime and greater reliability. «

Joachim Friedemann, Team Manager Hosting and Database Technology, Rechenzentrum Leipzig e.V.

→ The challenge

To improve performance and expand capacity – the old installation had reached the limits of its capacity in terms of response time and storage, and the consolidation of various retirement insurance organizations called for a new SAP® environment

To achieve economical operation – the overall goal was to handle the increase in the volume of work with existing personnel and within the same budget

→ The solution

Rechenzentrum Leipzig (RZL) introduced **FlexFrame™ for SAP** for the operation of the SAP applications of Deutsche Rentenversicherung (DRV) Mitteldeutschland and DRV Nord. This dynamic IT infrastructure solution features complete virtualization with automated allocation of hardware resources to SAP applications upon demand. Virtualization, automation and integrated high availability significantly simplify administration and increase availability to make it possible to double the workload without any increase in personnel resources. In addition, RZL benefits from integrated backup processes with hard-disk speed by using the CentricStor virtual tape solution. The use of FlexFrame for Oracle is also now being evaluated as a further step in the direction of achieving Dynamic Data Center capability.



With more than 57 million customers, **Deutsche Rentenversicherung** is Europe's largest public retirement insurer. This insurance provider serves both the state and its citizens from the time they take their first job up to retirement. Services include everything from information on retirement issues, medical rehabilitation and career planning to payment of retirement benefits to the insured and their beneficiaries. www.deutsche-rentenversicherung.de

→ Solution components

- Migration and consolidation of SAP instances with FlexFrame for SAP
- Hardware: PRIMERGY blade servers, NAS storage systems from Network Appliance™
- Operating system:
Novell® SUSE Linux Enterprise Server
- Database: Oracle 9i
- Backup: Link with CentricStor via storage management system
- In planning: Catastrophe-resistant distribution of the installation to two buildings

→ Customer benefits

- 100% increase in production capacity with the same number of employees
- Greater flexibility in IT operation with the possibility of accommodating new requirements in the short term
- Improved service quality with demand-based performance and higher availability
- Reduction in operating costs through simplified management, industry-standard technology and savings in terms of space and energy costs
- Simple, economical expansion

→ The project

The IT infrastructure used by DRV Nord for its mySAP applications had reached the limits of its capacity in terms of response times and storage capacity. Since the solution had already been in place for a few years, an upgrade would also have necessitated updates of the Oracle database and the operating system software. At the same time, it had become obvious that additional capacity would be required because of the merger of several regional locations of Deutsche Rentenversicherung (DRV) with DRV Mitteldeutschland. This situation was behind RZL's decision to invest in a future-facing IT infrastructure. In the context of a public pan-European tender procedure, the solution was found in the form of FlexFrame for SAP. What spoke in favor of this dynamic IT infrastructure solution was the fact that it offered greater flexibility and scalability as well as significantly lower operating costs for virtually the same investment that would have been required to expand the old infrastructure. RZL implemented the entire project with Fujitsu Siemens Computers within only three months. During this period, the database system was migrated from Oracle® 8 to 9i and the former insurers were also migrated to DRV Mitteldeutschland and the system of DRV Nord. The infrastructure solution is contained in two racks that will in the future be distributed in two buildings to increase security. What makes this project so interesting is that migration and consolidation took place without any downtime or interruption of the activities of the approximately 500 SAP users at work in the organizations during current productive operation. "Our users didn't notice the change at all", says Joachim Friedemann. He also added his praise: "Fujitsu Siemens Computers even took care of problems they were not even responsible for. Our experience was really very positive." One reason for this is that it will be possible to achieve synergistic effects in connection with the CentricStor virtual tape solution that already existed in the BS2000 environment.

→ A record of success

FlexFrame for SAP allows RZL to handle double the work with the same personnel. After all, virtualization and automation significantly simplify administration. In addition, servers can be exchanged without any outage, and integrated high availability improves reliability and availability. "If the system is provided with enough blades, actually nothing can happen", says Friedemann. What makes the overall system so economical is that the use of available server and storage has been significantly increased, blade technology reduces space requirements and energy costs, and the client has a solution that can be easily and economically expanded. Another benefit is that integration with CentricStor permits efficient backup with hard disk speed. The benefits of dynamic IT are convincing – which is why RZL is now thinking about migrating its Oracle databases to FlexFrame for Oracle.

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