Flexible, centralized data management with FibreCAT

IAG migrates to iSCSI technology for centralized data management

IAG

» FibreCAT gives us a modern, flexible storage system that features exceptional scalability, performance and economy. «

Jens Upahl, IT Manager, IAG-Ihlenberger Abfallentsorgungsgesellschaft mbH

→ The challenge

To overcome capacity limitations – the storage capacity of the previous file servers had been exhausted

To achieve high-performance data storage – the performance of the existing RAID 5 system was no longer adequate

To benefit from economical, future-safe data management – the overall data storage solution was chosen not only to meet requirements in terms of performance and reliability, but also to permit seamless scalability in the future

IAG-Ihlenberger Abfallentsorgungsgesellschaft mbH (IAG) is one of the largest employers in the region where is located. IAG offers private households and companies modern refuse collection and waste treatment management service. The company has substantial landfill capacity and comprehensive expertise in the disposal of hazardous waste. In addition, the production of electrical and thermal energy is becoming increasingly important for the company. **More at www.ihlenberg.de**

→ The solution

IAG-Ihlenberger Abfallentsorgungsgesellschaft mbH consolidated its previous data storage system with a modern network attached storage solution from Fujitsu Siemens Computers. The **FibreCAT NX40** NAS gateway, which was developed especially for medium-sized companies, and a **FibreCAT SX30** storage system are the core components of the new solution. The project carried out with our Cabus Business Solutions partner gives IAG an economical entry-level solution for centralized data management. Advantages of the new system include flexible use of storage resources, high-performance access to data for users, high availability of data and simplified administration as well as centralized backup. Since the system can be easily expanded to accommodate changes as the company grows, IAG can now also count on extremely efficient data management over the long term.

→ Solution components

- NAS solution for medium-sized companies for consolidation of storage infrastructure
- Systems: FibreCAT NX40 with iSCSI technology, FibreCAT SX30, PRIMERGY RX200
- Operating system: Windows Storage Server 2003 R2
- Backup: LTO3 tape drive, Backup Exec
- Applications: Microsoft® SQL 2005, Microsoft Exchange 2007

→ Customer benefits

- Homogeneous storage and backup infrastructure with centralized administration
- Flexible use of storage capacity
- Significantly improved performance, e.g., for file services and backup
- Flexible expansion
- High availability of data and applications
- Economical operation, economical expansion

→ The project

As the business requirements of IAG grew, two vulnerabilities in the company's IT infrastructure became increasingly obvious. The storage capacity of the file server has reached its limits, and the existing RAID 5 system for data storage no longer delivered the requisite performance. IAG took advantage of this situation to optimize its entire data management resources and deploy a future-safe solution. The goal of the modernization of the hardware and software was not exclusively to eliminate current capacity and performance shortfalls. The company also wanted to put in place a solution for efficient, centralized data management that would make it possible to cover future requirements without any problem. The concept proposed by Cabus convinced the customer – consolidation of data storage and backup with an NAS solution tailored to the needs of medium-sized companies that offers scalability, reliability and brilliant technology. The preinstalled, pretested and preconfigured FibreCAT NX40 appliance gives IAG a high-performance file and print server with iSCSI technology. The appliance with the Windows® Storage Server 2003 R2 operating system, which is up and ready to go in only a few minutes, offers high-performance file serving and innovative data backup functionalities with point-in-time copies. The system is available with up to 2 Terabytes of internal storage capacity and can be easily expanded with FibreCAT storage systems. In the case of IAG, it also functions at the same time as a high-performance NAS gateway for a FibreCAT SX30 that provides high data throughput plus high availability for important company data. The system also includes an LTO3 tape drive that IAG uses to back up data on tape with Backup Exec. "We had already had good experience with systems and services from Fujitsu Siemens Computers in past years," says IAG's IT manager Jens Upahl, who added: "What we especially appreciate about our storage solution is that it meets our requirements with a good price-performance ratio and also supports flexible expansion."

→ Project partner

C A B U S

→ A record of success

The installation gives IAG a solution that is economical, flexible and future-safe. iSCSI logical units (LUNs) help permit optimal use of storage capacity, and the various types of data can be accessed simply and reliably. Data management, including backup, is completely centralized and work is kept to a minimum. In addition, users are supported as usual during their work, but performance is now significantly better. Plus Jens Upahl is satisfied with the results: "We have a modern, flexible storage system. Capacity problems are a thing of the past, as are the performance issues we had with our old system."

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