

Case Study

Umbria TPL e Mobilità

"The launch of Umbria TPL e Mobilità reinforced the choices of consolidation and virtualization already started at local level, and the reasons behind those choices, which range from energy savings to simplified maintenance." Giuseppe Vasta, IT Manager, Umbria TPL e Mobilità



The customer

Umbria Trasporto Pubblico Locale (TPL) e Mobilità was established in 2010 following the merger into one public joint-stock company of four existing companies: Azienda Perugina della Mobilità (APM), ATC Terni, SSIT-Spoletina Trasporti and Ferrovia Centrale Umbra. Unlike other similar regional companies which are established as consortia, Umbria TPL is a single company, established with the objective of rationalizing and developing regional public transport. The company has around 1,200 employees.

The Challenge

The decision to merge four companies devoted to local area public road and rail transport into a single company brought with it an obvious need to also rationalize and standardize the technological infrastructure. The former Azienda Perugina per la Mobilità, which had already initiated the consolidation process of its data center, took on the role of group leader for IT, coordinating a more extensive process of centralizing the servers and virtualizing client resources. For the merger, the main challenges they faced involved application integration and efficient network connection between head office and branch offices.

The solution

Umbria TPL e Mobilità is a group of companies heavily rooted in their own operational area. The process of technological restructuring following the merger had to take account of the need to integrate applications and their relative processes centrally, but also had to create working conditions in the branch offices that could be assimilated with those at the head office in Perugia. The solution adopted helped accelerate the consolidation of the data center, which centered on the implementation of the Fujitsu PRIMERGY BX900 blade servers and the SAN Fujitsu ETERNUS DX80, while, at the same time, the technological standardization at client level was effected using a Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI) environment, recycling where possible the hardware already installed in the branch offices and integrating it within client devices.

The customer

Country: Italy
Sector: Public Transport
Employees: 1,200
Website: www.umbriamobilita.it



The Challenge

Umbria TPL e Mobilità was established in 2010 as a new regional company for public road and rail transport and was the result of a merger of four existing Italian transportation companies. The main challenges faced at IT level were standardizing the very different initial resources and integrating applications.

The solution

Using the invaluable experience that Azienda Perugina per la Mobilità had gained, consolidation and virtualization, both at server and client level, represented the way forward to facilitate an operational merger. The solutions offered by Fujitsu and the support of their partner PC Service met the needs of this newly-established venture.

The Benefits

- Pragmatic management centralization
- Simplified maintenance
- Efficient network connection and collaboration with branch offices
- No change in the IT structure or energy consumption despite the increase in size of the structure

The Benefits

The information system of the still very young Umbria TPL e Mobilità (operational launch at the end of 2010) had effectively already started off consolidated. The process had been started a couple of years before by Azienda Perugina per la Mobilità, using a VMware platform and purchasing a Fujitsu PRIMERGY BX600 blade server with four blades (which very soon increased to ten), combined with a SAN Fujitsu ETERNUS SX80 and then a DX80. In terms of the technological infrastructure, the integration of the other Umbrian transport companies was facilitated by their insertion into a process that had already started: "We had to decide which applications to bring to head office," recalls Giuseppe Vasta, IT Manager for Umbria TPL e Mobilità, "and boost our hardware with a Fujitsu PRIMERGY BX900 and a new SAN. The establishment of a new company reinforced the choices that we had already made and the reasons behind those choices, which range from energy savings to the simplification of maintenance."

Today, all the company's critical applications operate on ten blades and three SAN installed in the data center in Perugia. The decision to virtualize allowed us to centralize and rationalize dedicated processes on the servers, which range from management processes to protocols and from email to management of mobile devices. Our monitoring system tracking the movement of public transport vehicles is very advanced: "We implemented an Automatic Vehicle Monitoring system using computers installed on board town buses" explains Mr Vasta. "Our control room always knows what the situation is in real time and can help reduce the late arrival of any vehicle by acting on traffic light thresholds. For now, this system is working on 110 buses in Perugia, but we aim to extend this to other towns."

The decision to virtualize PCs was strictly linked to the establishment of Umbria TPL e Mobilità and the consequent need to integrate the workstations of employees working in branch offices. The VDI infrastructure, which today consists of 75 units, has allowed even obsolete machines to be recycled and it will grow, allowing whoever is operating in the branch offices to work and collaborate in an increasingly seamless and efficient way.

Products and Services

- Fujitsu PRIMERGY BX900 and BX600 blade servers
- Fujitsu ETERNUS DX80 and SX80 storage
- Fujitsu Zero Client devices
- VMware vSphere 4.5 virtualization software

As part of the plan, there is the opportunity of equipping company managers with Fujitsu Zero Client terminals: "These devices allow access to an environment that is always available and definitely requires less assistance compared to the traditional PC," comments Mr Vasta. In more general terms, the consolidation and virtualization project has made it possible to maintain the same levels of energy consumption in the machine rooms today as in 2009 despite the developments introduced. Moreover, the same people that previously were busy dealing exclusively with IT support for APM, can now respond to requests that come in from all the branches covered by Umbria TPL.

The Partner's Role

"Throughout all phases of the development process, our partner's support has always been proactive and marked by the highest level of collaboration". That's how Giuseppe Vasta judges PC Service's contribution to the implementation phase of the server virtualization and consolidation project initially with APM and then with Umbria TPL e Mobilità. The Top SELECT Expert Partner of Fujitsu helped the client's IT department to find the solutions most suited to their needs for integration: "We succeeded in guaranteeing a period of three months for implementation, working immediately, and even with support machines, to prevent any halt in the system," explains Paolo Cassieri, CEO and founder member of PC Service.

Conclusion

The experience of Umbria TPL e Mobilità shows that consolidation and virtualization are efficient choices for company mergers and where there is a need to integrate different resources. The use of blade technology in the data center makes it possible to use machines to test solutions before they are put into production and leaves space for new developments without the need for further investment.

"Having been able to try out the benefits of virtualization, it was easy to convince our board of directors to continue along the same track."
Giuseppe Vasta, IT Manager, Umbria TPL e Mobilità

In collaboration with



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