Case Study
KARI

»We selected not only equipment but a partner for the future. The selection was made from among famous international server equipment brands. We preferred Fujitsu servers due to their optimum combination of price/quality. Fujitsu server equipment has become our corporate standard«
Vener Safin, IT Director, KARI

The customer

Country: Russia
Industry: Retail and distribution
Founded: 2012
Website: www.kari.com

The challenge

The KARI retail chain uses the Columbus Retail information system to manage corporate business processes in all regions where it has a presence. It became evident that with the growth of the company, the quantity and volumes of data being processed would exceed the predicted figures, so the performance of the servers had to be enhanced and speed increased.

The solution

To address the problem Fujitsu PRIMERGY RX900, RX500 and RX200 servers were installed at the KARI data center and they were adopted as the technological standard for server equipment at KARI.

The customer

KARI is an international chain of stores selling fashion footwear and accessories for men and women. The brand is a household name in Poland, Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan. It runs a total of over 570 stores. KARI currently has 430 stores operating in Russia.

The KARI chain of stores appeared on the international market in 2012. The company implements the concept of fast-fashion, offering a wide circle of customers a varied and constantly updating range of fashionable footwear and accessories at affordable prices. Low prices entail large purchasing volumes and a large number of stores. The first collections were put together in January and, in March 2012, the company set up purchasing operations through its office in Hong Kong. The first stores opened in Poland in May 2012.

The challenge

The KARI retail chain uses the Columbus Retail information system to manage corporate business processes in all regions where it has a presence. The Columbus solution was created on the basis of Microsoft Dynamics AX for Retail. The system is integrated with TP Application Suite software (Wincor Nixdorf), including the POS-system TP.net Store (Frontstore/ Backstore). The latter is installed at each checkout in KARI chain stores, making a total of more than 1,000 installations. At the end of each day, checkout operations data are sent to the ERP system, where consolidated reports are formed on sales and refunds for all the chain's retail outlets. It became evident that with the growth of the company, the quantity and volumes of data being processed would exceed the predicted figures, so the performance of the servers had to be enhanced and speed increased.

ERP is a key IT system at the company. Its sizing and selection of equipment at the start of the project had to be adjusted based on the results of the operating experience already accumulated. This concerned the infrastructure of the ERP system and the BI server on the QlickView platform.

The benefit

- Guaranteed continuity of business processes
- Well-balanced scaling
- Fault tolerance and protection of business-application data
- Increased recyclability and guaranteed protection of investment in IT

Products and services

- FUJITSU Server PRIMERGY RX200
- FUJITSU Server PRIMERGY RX500
- FUJITSU Server PRIMERGY RX900

The solution

KARI worked in collaboration with Columbus to launch a unified corporate information system in four regions, by the time the first stores were opened. The solution supports the management of sales, pricing and cash operations, purchasing management and distribution logistics, settlements with partners and the financial accounting of the retailer. The choice of server systems supplier was also done from among the equipment of famous international vendors. The main criteria governing the selection, in addition to high performance, was an optimum purchase and future servicing cost. Fujitsu server solutions were found to be the best placed to satisfy the needs of the customer.

Fujitsu PRIMERGY RX200 S7 servers ensure high performance of an efficiently operating data center. Increasing the number of cores by 50% enables the management of a considerably higher number of virtual machines, compared with systems of the previous generation. PRIMERGY RX500 S7 servers were used to build a QlickView BI system. Such parameters facilitate the launch of a large number of powerful virtual machines on a single server. After the commissioning of the RX500 S7, the speed with which analytical reports were created increased by several orders of magnitude. The Fujitsu RX900 eight-processor servers were used to create a fault-tolerant cluster. PRIMERGY RX900 S2 servers use high-speed Intel QuickPath Interconnect (QPI) architecture, which enables the simple scaling of the system up to 8 processors of the Intel Xeon E7-8800 family, containing up to 10 cores per processor. This meant a scalable server could be created, setting a new record for performance for rack services with x86 architecture. The PRIMERGY RX900 system has been designed allowing for the possible need for scaling. Thanks to a holistic design on the basis of the latest Intel QPI architecture, the scaling takes place entirely "inside" the RX900. In other words, the scaling of the PRIMERGY RX900 S2 servers does not need the addition of further equipment or controllers, which would inevitably lead to a change in the current rack infrastructure in the DC and to undesirable down time.

The benefit

- A full-fledged ERP system has been built, including
  - Range management
  - Movement of goods: from order of goods from suppliers to distribution to stores
  - Financial statements: local + consolidation of data
  - Accountancy
  - Treasury
- A perfected algorithm for store replenishment
- Integration with the TP.net Store POS system from Wincor Nixdorf.

Conclusion

The Columbus Retail system supports the entire KARI logistics chain, from planning collections and their distribution to stores, to sale of goods to the end buyer. Using ERP, KARI management managed in a short space of time to realize their plans in growing the chain, creating a reliable information foundation for expansion and development of the company for the coming years. Now more than 570 retail outlets operate in a single information environment. The upgrade of the ERP system infrastructure for the retail chain was fundamental. Alongside the Fujitsu servers, a new data storage system was purchased and installed, so no serious changes in the KARI IT infrastructure are planned in the near future.

In collaboration with

Columbus®

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