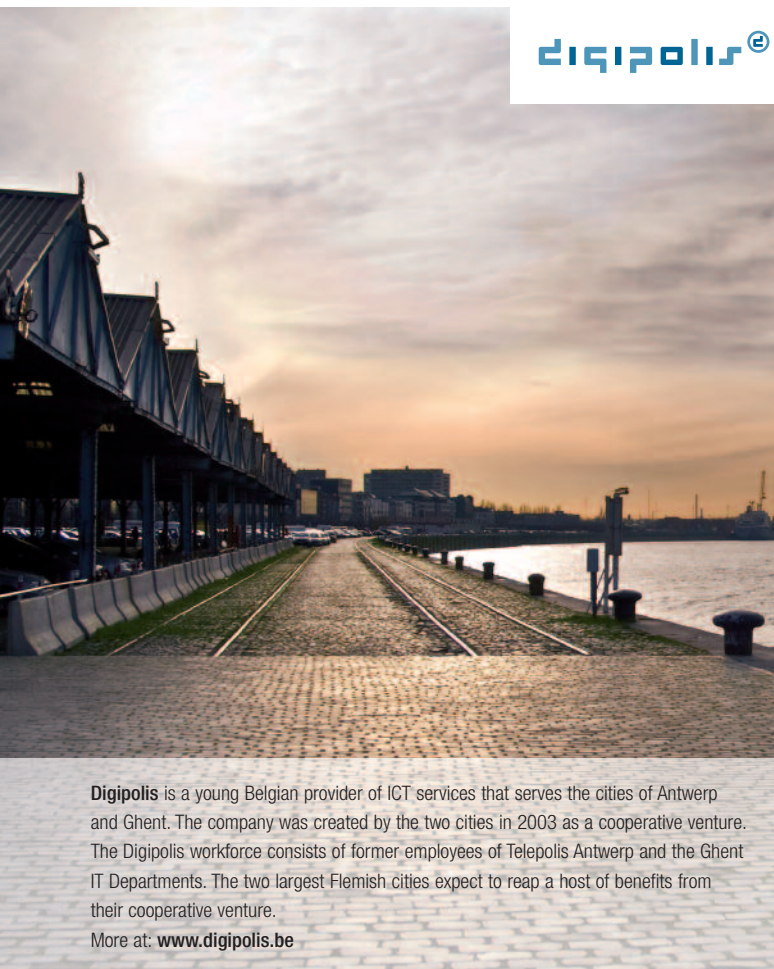


CASE STUDY

ICT provider with new system architecture based on PRIMERGY BX900 and VMware:

Digipolis builds on a future-safe platform



digipolis®

The challenge

To gear up for the future – with a “visionary” platform consisting of a single instance that can replace all existing system environments and provide cross-locational access to IT resources

To cut costs – with a consolidated server and storage infrastructure that makes it possible to tap into potential for savings

To improve service quality – with expanded services for end-users plus improvement in quality

The solution

Digipolis, a Belgian provider of information and communication services, realized its vision of a uniform, cross-locational IT platform when it launched a **modernization project to replace its entire server and storage infrastructure with high-tech systems from Fujitsu**. The new data center, which makes available IT resources for the public services of the cities of Antwerp and Ghent, now provides all the advantages of maximum performance, availability, economy, flexibility and scalability. These are all concrete advantages that will enable Digipolis to stay on top of new trends, requirements and developments as they emerge and at the same time improve the quality of its services on an ongoing basis. In addition to a series of PRIMERGY Blade Servers, consolidation and virtualization of the server and storage infrastructure on VMware and solutions from EMC contributed to the overall success of the project.

Digipolis is a young Belgian provider of ICT services that serves the cities of Antwerp and Ghent. The company was created by the two cities in 2003 as a cooperative venture. The Digipolis workforce consists of former employees of Telepolis Antwerp and the Ghent IT Departments. The two largest Flemish cities expect to reap a host of benefits from their cooperative venture.

More at: www.digipolis.be

Solution components

- Hardware: 14x PRIMERGY BX900 blade chassis with a total of 223x PRIMERGY BX920 Server Blades
- Storage systems: 4x EMC Centeras and 6x CLARiiON CX4
- Software: 48x VMware ESX Server licenses, Symantec Netbackup and Enterprise Vault, Microsoft SCOM for monitoring
- Tape libraries: 1x enterprise-class Scalar i2000 and 2x midrange Scalar i500
- Services: Implementation of solution and migration support

Customer benefits

- From vision to reality: uniform corporate IT platform
- High-availability of system resources
- Maximum flexibility
- Scalability
- Streamlined management, reduced administrative expense
- TCO control
- Expansion and improvement of services for end-users

The project

Digipolis, the ICT provider of the Belgian cities of Antwerp and Ghent, launched its recent modernization project by drawing up a list of benchmarks for both resources and the vendor. Two items that were high on the list of priorities of Digipolis were “Creativity” and “Imaginative Solutions”. In subsequent phases Digipolis then solicited bids and fine-tuned its catalog of decision-making criteria. The ultimate goal of the extensive upgrade project was to put in place a new server and storage infrastructure that would feature all of the advantages of centralization, consolidation and virtualization and at the same time support migration of existing x86-based system environments and applications. Digipolis wanted to use this single future-safe architecture to replace three core areas that had previously provided all information and communication services made available by the organization. This architecture included the Intel-based server infrastructure as well as the data and backup infrastructure for the Antwerp and Ghent application locations and the Antwerp mainframe environment. Fujitsu won out against a series of big-name competitors by providing the most convincing proposal. As a result, the new system environment is based on PRIMERGY Blade Server technology with fourteen PRIMERGY BX900 servers (Intel® Xeon® Processors) now running under a combination of VMware ESX and Microsoft Windows Server. In addition, it was also possible to increase the effect of consolidation at the virtualization level created with VMware. And, finally, CLARiiON systems from EMC make up the technological core of the optimized storage infrastructure.

A record of success

With its new system architecture, Digipolis has reinforced its ability to compete over the long term and established a stable foundation for future success. Through the use of Blade Server technology from Fujitsu, virtualization with VMware and a storage environment consolidated on the basis of EMC components, Digipolis has effectively streamlined its IT structure. At the same time, it was able to achieve significant improvement in terms of performance and economy. By concentrating on a single IT platform, the ICT provider was also able to realize appreciable savings in the area of system administration. And, finally, Digipolis now benefits from maximum agility, which represents a significant advantage when it comes to adapting to changes in requirements.

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