noris network

"We needed a powerful, high-capacity storage system that also provided good value for money. That's why we chose the FUJITSU Storage ETERNUS DX600."

Jörn Westermann
Head of Cloud & Infrastructure
noris network AG

Switching to Fujitsu ETERNUS hybrid storage systems reduces access times and safeguards the company's critical just-in-time processes.

At a glance
Country: Germany
Industry: IT Services
Founded: 1993
Employees: 280
Website: noris.de

Challenge
The company was looking for a synchronous backup storage solution, which would be capable of handling significant data volumes. It needed to enable live mirroring at two sites located a significant physical distance from each other.

Solution
Install a number of FUJITSU Storage ETERNUS DX600 machines specially designed to consolidate large data volumes and which are highly robust and easily scalable.

Benefit
- Redundant and highly scalable storage
- Maximum robustness
- Straightforward scalability
- Good value for money
- Excellent support

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Customer

Nuremberg-based noris network AG entered the market in 1993 as Bavaria's first Internet Service Provider. The company provides customers with tailored information technology and communications solutions for IT outsourcing, cloud services, network, and security. The technology powering these services is a high-performance IT infrastructure with a powerful backbone and seven high-security data centers. The Nürnberg Süd and München Ost data centers are two of Europe's most innovative and energy-efficient data centers.

Products and Services

- 2 x FUJITSU Storage ETERNUS DX600 with 15 PB

Petabyte-scale backup with synchronous mirroring

A financial-sector customer approached noris network AG with an unusual project: five petabytes of data with synchronous mirroring on a second system. "We manage hundreds of customers on dedicated as well as virtualized storage systems. But those volumes of data are not commonplace," said Jörn Westermann, Head of Cloud & Infrastructure at noris network AG.

The requirement for synchronous data mirroring was also highly unusual. The data operations at each site were to be run in parallel at all times and the sites would be located at least several kilometers from each other. The brief stated that if one of the sites were to malfunction, the data at the other should remain available to the customer without incurring data loss. The specific design was due to the customer's high security requirements.

The storage solution also needed to make financial sense. What this would amount to was a high-availability solution specifically designed for maximum redundancy while also being able to cope with the worst-case scenario.

High-performing DX600 ETERNUS storage

Based on these requirements, Westermann quickly made up his mind about the right solution for this project. "We needed a powerful, high-capacity storage system that also provided good value for money. That's why it soon became clear that the FUJITSU Storage ETERNUS DX600 was the right choice," he says. ETERNUS DX600 is the perfect solution for consolidating large to extremely large data volumes. Transparent failover ensures that data is always available, even if a catastrophic event occurs.

As a long-standing Fujitsu customer, Westermann was fully aware of the system's power, and was sure that it would meet the customer's security requirements.

For a financial company, high availability is the top priority — 100 percent reliability, in other words. "The customer has to convince its auditors, and while they won't of course be discussing the type of product, it is important to comply with the specific requirements imposed." Being based in Germany also provides the customer with legal safeguards.

Reliability, robustness, expandability

Westermann already knew about the FUJITSU Storage ETERNUS DX600 system's reliability from his experience of previous customer projects. A minor mishap that occurred shortly after the system was implemented provided an initial stress test. A storage device was inadvertently damaged when a disk was being changed. And yet, thanks to the system running in parallel, the customer did not have to worry about downtime. In contrast, remirroring five petabytes of data from a different site would have certainly cost significant time and effort.

"It really was a nightmare scenario. But after the system restarted, all the data was there," reports Westermann. In his opinion, this is "real evidence of the robustness of ETERNUS storage."

As far as noris network AG is concerned, the system's straightforward scalability should not be underestimated either. Should the already remarkable five petabytes of data no longer be sufficient, additional storage can be added simply and without interruptions — and at a fair price, too, as Westermann emphasizes. "That's incredibly important to us," he confirms.

Finally, the trust that has developed during their long-standing partnership is a real positive for the noris network AG. He praises "the ease of getting support and the rapid reaction times." That's why companies turn to Fujitsu for their most demanding customers and their highly specific requirements such as five petabytes of synchronously mirrored storage.

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