

“The high-performance server and storage hardware from Fujitsu seamlessly blends into our existing VMware environment, which allows us to implement simple, rapid, dynamic and cost-effective IT processes.”

Achim Kaufmann
Team Leader IT Infrastructure
Josefs-Gesellschaft gGmbH

Images: Pedro Citoler

Josefs-Gesellschaft gGmbH has increased its IT performance with Fujitsu hardware, and simplified the organization's administration tasks with the Fujitsu ServerView Suite software.

At a glance

Country: Germany
Industry: Charitable, social institution
Founded: 1904
Website: www.jg-gruppe.de



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Challenge

Josefs-Gesellschaft gGmbH requires a high-performance IT architecture to manage its processes and data. To this end, the organization planned to modernize the server and storage hardware at its head office in Cologne. The ability to integrate the new systems into the existing VMware environment presented a key requirement in this context.

Solution

Josefs-Gesellschaft gGmbH installed a configuration consisting of ETERNUS and PRIMERGY hardware on the basis of the FUJITSU Integrated System "PRIMEFLEX for VMware vSphere". All servers were integrated into the organization's VMware vCenter using the FUJITSU ServerView Suite Integration Packs, and now feature Remote Management Controllers as well as embedded LifeCycle Management.

Benefit

- High-performance server and storage environment for simple, rapid, dynamic and cost-effective IT processes
- Seamless integration into the existing VMware environment
- Simplification of hardware management
- Less pressure on IT personnel
- Server-hardware volume cut in half, with space savings in the computer centers and simultaneous increase in performance



Customer

"The individual at the center" – Josefs-Gesellschaft gGmbH implements and practices this mission statement every single day. As a catholic charitable sponsor of institutions for people with disabilities, the group, which is headquartered in Cologne, provides competent and dedicated help for self-help. Its sponsorship activities also extend to hospitals and nursing homes. More than 10,000 people use the various services offered by Josefs-Gesellschaft gGmbH. They range from residential opportunities, schools, professional training and workshops to medical and care support.

Products and Services

- 2 x ETERNUS DX200 (each 92 TB) and 1 x ETERNUS LT40
- 1 x PRIMERGY RX2540
- 6 x PRIMERGY CX400 Multi Node Chassis
- 16 x PRIMERGY Nodes CX2540
- PRIMEFLEX for VMware vSphere
- Embedded LifeCycle Management (eLCM)
- Integrated Remote Management Controller (iRMC) including Advanced Pack (Advanced Video Redirection and remote Storage)
- FUJITSU Software ServerView Suite Integration Packs
- Brocade IP Switches: 4 x ICX7750, 4 x ICX7250



Seamless VMware integration as the major requirement

Josefs-Gesellschaft gGmbH requires a high-performance IT architecture to manage its business processes and the data of the recipients of its services. At the Cologne head office, the server and storage hardware that was acquired from an American manufacturer was outdated and in need of an upgrade. The ability to integrate the new hardware into the VMware environment became a key requirement as the IT department mainly works with virtualized server components. "We want to make optimum use of our space in the computer center. Therefore the new hardware had to be simultaneously space-saving and powerful," says Achim Kaufmann, Team Leader IT Infrastructure at Josefs-Gesellschaft gGmbH, in describing another important requirement. In addition, the hardware had to seamlessly blend into the IT architecture, and also had to be easy to manage, because the head office in Cologne has five permanent employees who look after the IT infrastructure.

The individuals in charge of IT at Josefs-Gesellschaft gGmbH put forward a variety of reasons in favor of a collaboration with Fujitsu. "As a charitable, social institution, we like the fact that Fujitsu has a production site in Germany and thus secures workplaces in this country. In addition, we are also impressed with the social engagement of the IT group and the environmentally-friendly production conditions," confirms Achim Kaufmann. Other important decision factors were Fujitsu's market-leading technology and extensive VMware expertise. The company has had a long-standing partnership with the virtualization specialist, and is regularly found among the top-ranked companies in the corresponding benchmarks. "Another important factor was that our IT partner offers a broad range of products and solutions as part of its portfolio. Fujitsu is well positioned in this regard, and can supply servers, storage components, network technology and desktop PCs from one source," explains Kaufmann.

New hardware environment for comprehensive virtualization tasks

As a result, the persons in charge of IT at Josefs-Gesellschaft gGmbH decided to invest in Fujitsu server and storage hardware on the basis of the PRIMEFLEX for VMware architecture. The organization acquired two ETERNUS DX200 storage systems, one for each computer center. Both devices are operated under the IBM Storage SAN Volume Controller (SVC), both as storage for the VMware environment as well as for the IBM Power Advanced Interactive eXecutive (AIX) environment. In addition, an ETERNUS LT40 was also installed as a tape device for the Veeam software.

One PRIMERGY RX2540 is used as a Veeam server with one JX40 extension. The new hardware environment is completed with six PRIMERGY Multi-Node Technology CX400 chassis—three for each computer center—as well as 16 PRIMERGY Nodes DX2540 for the virtualization with VMware vSphere. All PRIMERGY servers feature integrated Remote Management Controllers (iRMC) including Advanced Video Redirection (AVR) and an Embedded LifeCycle Management (eLCM) license. Furthermore, all servers are integrated into the VMware vCenter of Josefs-Gesellschaft gGmbH using FUJITSU ServerView Suite Integration Packs.

In addition to the extensive advice provided by Fujitsu staff (also in the context of a plant visit in Augsburg), the implementation partner SVA System Vertrieb Alexander GmbH (based in Wiesbaden) also rendered professional support for the conceptualization, design and implementation of the architecture. The entire conversion process was completed without interruptions. "The SVA experts initially set up the servers and subsequently migrated all of the data to the new hardware—with everything completed during running operations and without downtime," remembers the IT Team Leader.

Greatly simplified hardware management

"The Fujitsu solution has provided us with a high-performance server and storage environment that allows us to implement simple, rapid, dynamic and cost-effective IT processes. In addition, the hardware seamlessly blends into our existing VMware environment," says Achim Kaufmann. With regard to administrative tasks, the solution also takes considerable pressure off those in charge of IT, who now have to spend much less time on hardware management. The FUJITSU ServerView Integration software provides all functions for fail-safe, flexible and automated round-the-clock operations, and improves productivity with intelligent management solutions. André Lorscheid, Senior System Engineer at the partner SVA, describes another major advantage: "Thanks to the Multi-Node technology, Josefs-Gesellschaft gGmbH was able to cut the volume of its server hardware in half, and now reaps the advantages in the form of much more space in the computer centers, and significantly increased computing power."

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