cosmetics

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Frank Bauer
Head of IT
Schwan-STABILO Cosmetics

Fujitsu migrates Schwan-STABILO Cosmetics' existing SAP ERP® landscape to a virtualized SAP HANA system environment.

At a glance

Country: Germany
Industry: Cosmetics
Founded: 1855
Employees: 3350
Website: schwancosmetics.com

Challenge

Schwan-STABILO Cosmetics controls its production processes through SAP. This makes a stable and high-performing IT system which is crucially important for the business.

Solution

Migration from a MaxDB environment to a SAP HANA database within the Fujitsu data center.

Benefit

■ Short, defined implementation time

■ Minimal risk thanks to the extensive SAP expertise of Fujitsu's consultants

■ Future-proofing the international rollout of SAP ERP

■ Significant improvements in performance for database-intensive applications

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Customer

As a leading private-label producer of pencils and cosmetic products, Schwan-STABILO Cosmetics can count a wide range of well-known international cosmetics firms among its customers. The company, which was founded in 1855, transferred the expertise it had gained from the writing accessories sector to the field of cosmetics in 1927. Schwan-STABILO Cosmetics' innovative developments have continued to have a lasting influence on the sector ever since, including such innovations as the direct molding method and the first-ever mechanical make-up pencil.

Products and services

- Migration to a SAP HANA database within the Fujitsu data center
- Operating a virtualized IT environment on SAP HANA-certified infrastructure in the data center

Challenge

The software infrastructure at Schwan-STABILO Cosmetics is built on a three-tier SAP environment comprising test, development and production systems, which has been hosted in Fujitsu's data center since 2009. Production is also partially operated by SAP systems: shop floor integration means that ERP and production are interlinked. The ramifications of potential failures or bottlenecks would be far-reaching, emphasizes Frank Bauer, Head of IT at Schwan-STABILO Cosmetics: "The SAP system controls our mass production. This means that production suffers if the system fails to provide data or performs badly."

Solution

Schwan-STABILO Cosmetics was motivated to switch from the relational database management system MaxDB to SAP HANA by its desire to have a modern platform which could be rolled out across its international subsidiaries. "We could have continued to run our systems until 2025, but SAP HANA facilitates more intensive development. We opted to migrate to SAP where further developments will take place," explains Bauer. A switch to SAP S4/HANA was planned and, in this strategy, Schwan-STABILO Cosmetics benefited from Fujitsu's extensive knowledge gained through other SAP HANA migration projects. Fujitsu has established tried-and-tested standards for HANA migration and operation and was therefore able to implement the innovation project with Schwan-STABILO Cosmetics without the need to test the planned installations using proof of concept solutions first.

"Fujitsu managed the migration of MaxDB to a virtualized SAP HANA environment and executed the technical aspects of the project. This was carried out very successfully within the predefined timeframe," explains Bauer. The system was migrated to a specific SAP HANA-certified server landscape within Fujitsu's data center. This even allowed a relatively rapid deadline for migration. A fallback strategy was in place, but fortunately it was not needed, as the switch worked first time, thanks to the professional preparation and expertise involved.

Benefits

"This had an immediate positive impact on the applications hosted by Fujitsu's data center," says Henning Gronert, who oversees SAP development at Schwan-STABILO Cosmetics and is responsible for the migration. First, it provided the opportunity to reduce the storage capacity needed for applications, as SAP HANA uses an in-memory database and current data is stored in the database server's primary storage. Its use in Fujitsu's data center allows IT capacity to be flexibly adjusted on demand.

In addition, switching to the modern database made the applications considerably faster. "Our MRP planning run takes place at night. It is now twice as fast as before, simply because of switching from the relational SAP database management system MaxDB to HANA. We have not performed any other optimizations. SAP HANA reduced the time required for some batch jobs from four hours to under one hour. This is relevant to batch jobs that run overnight. There is a three-shift continuous production operation, and therefore production resources from the ERP system also need to be available during the night. "This makes the time needed for batch jobs important to prevent bottlenecks," adds Gronert.

Analyses which take place as part of daily operations are highly database-intensive and these too have become significantly quicker thanks to the switch. For example, very fast data readouts are experienced on the assembly line, "because this can now be performed in seconds as opposed to minutes," explains Gronert. Head of IT Frank Bauer concludes: "The benefits that we were promised have been realized."

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