Gluth
Modulare Automation und Prüftechnik

> "The performance boost that the FUJITSU Storage ETERNUS AF250 provides is very important to us. Our developers can open even larger CAD files of up to 5GB in half the time it would take them before."

Markus Windschüttl
IT Manager
Gluth Systemtechnik GmbH

Gluth Systemtechnik reaps the benefits of a more performant Fujitsu server and All Flash storage infrastructure. The new solution has halved access times for large CAD files.

At a glance
Country: Germany
Industry: Engineering
Founded: 1989
Website: gluth.de

Challenge
With the previous IT infrastructure, developers at Gluth Systemtechnik had to wait a significant amount of time for their CAD files to open. The users were unhappy and were not able to work as productively as they could.

Solution
Two Fujitsu PRIMERGY 2540 rack servers now control a VMware system based on a highly performant FUJITSU Storage ETERNUS AF250 array, equipped with Intel® Xeon® Processor, with a 16 gigabit Fibre Channel interface. This has halved access times for large CAD files.

Benefit
- Access times for large CAD files have reduced by half

- Failover times for the virtual machines have reduced dramatically, down from 25 to four seconds

- The old system has been retained as a backup solution

- High-quality support, with the ETERNUS AF250 guaranteed to be restored within four hours

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Customer

Gluth Systemtechnik sees itself as a partner to industry. The company develops and delivers modular and innovative solutions tailored to its customers' needs. Each product it manufactures must undergo stringent quality checks before leaving the factory. To ensure its success on the market, Gluth imposes similarly strict standards on itself, continually investing in both training for its employees and in the latest construction and production technologies. The company has customers across the world, and its projects can be worth from a few thousand to millions of Euros.

Products and services

- Two FUJITSU Server PRIMERGY RX2540 with 500GB RAM
- FUJITSU Storage ETERNUS AF250 All Flash array with 22 x 1.92 TB SSD
- Transparent failover via the storage cluster
- 16GB Fibre Channel switch

Challenge

As a supplier to the automotive industry, special machine manufacturer Gluth is part of the supply chain for many large corporations. This means that it needs a powerful, reliable and fast IT infrastructure: "Medium-sized enterprises need the same equipment as large automotive manufacturers, high performance is simply expected," says Christian Sipmeier, whose system house Sippicom IT Solutions planned and carried out the project to migrate the company's data to a FUJITSU Storage ETERNUS AF250 array. At the same time, the requirements on the IT systems used by mid-sized mechanical engineering firms are continually growing due to ever-increasing CAD file sizes. Even a single file for an individual component can easily reach 5GB.

Gluth Systemtechnik's existing infrastructure had become too slow to keep up with these kinds of demands. The employees had to wait significant amounts of time for their files to open. This brought down productivity and user satisfaction. The special machine manufacturer had been very satisfied with the reliability and robustness of Fujitsu hardware it had installed on previous projects, including the more than 100 of the company's FUJITSU CELSIUS Workstations it had in daily use. So, it was no surprise that Gluth chose to source the infrastructure for its new VMware environment from there, too.

Solution

To solve the company's issues, Sippicom installed a VMware infrastructure with a FUJITSU Storage ETERNUS AF250 array, equipped with Intel® Xeon® Processor, fast 16GB Fibre Channel switch and two FUJITSU Server PRIMERGY RX2540. The performance boost was considerable. It had previously taken up to an hour to open some of the larger CAD files, but with the new, performant IT infrastructure, this has halved. The databases now run three times faster than before, with Markus Windschüttl, Gluth Systemtechnik GmbH's IT Manager, adding that the company "no longer experiences any latency." All Gluth's critical applications, including the ERP system APplus and a number of CAD programs such as Autodesk Inventor, CATIA, ProCAD and Pro. Files now run on the same infrastructure regardless of whether they are being used as productive or test systems. The storage solution is now incredibly performant and powerful with 22, 1.9TB drives.

And to ensure that it is not only the all-flash storage that runs at optimum speed, but the entire solution, the company uses a 16GB Fibre Channel switch rather than the standard 8GB version.

If Gluth ever experiences a disaster scenario, it can now switch from the productive system to the clone much more quickly. Automatic failover via storage cluster is also possible for existing systems. The standby clone runs on the old ETERNUS DX90 with the backup program creating new clones automatically and continuously. It now takes just four seconds to switch over rather than the previous 25.

Benefit

"I'm starting to see that all-flash storage has become affordable for even the smaller companies, and really has arrived in the medium-sized sector," observes IT Project Developer, Christian Sipmeier. As well as the speed and price, he also sees the longevity of modern fast storage devices, which can last up to ten years, as another very important factor. Gluth Systemtechnik, meanwhile, sees the enormous performance gains the new virtual machines have given it as a sign of a worthwhile investment. Being able to open CAD files more quickly reduces the amount of unproductive time for its developers. Another benefit is that all the IT systems now run on a consistent infrastructure with fewer servers required than before. The number has dropped from three to two, which has reduced both maintenance expenditure and licensing costs. The company now has one fewer Microsoft Server Datacenter edition to pay for.

The FUJITSU Storage ETERNUS DX90 system with 8GB Fibre Channel and three Fujitsu Server RX300 devices the company had been using are now employed as a backup system. The main factor in Gluth's decision to partner with Fujitsu was the quality and stability of its systems. But another important element was that Fujitsu acts as a complete provider, offering a full range of servers and storage systems, powerful workstations and comprehensive service through competent partners. It also impressed the company with its high efficiency, cost-effective solutions and good and fast support. And the fact that Fujitsu has a strong presence in Germany with a production site in Augsburg played a role in the decision, too: "For us it was important to have support coming entirely from within Germany, and to work with a company that understood our needs," explains Markus Windschüttl of Gluth Systemtechnik.

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