

Case study

Globus hypermarkets secure Exchange data on ETERNUS DX storage systems

»The combination of Microsoft Exchange Server 2010, PRIMERGY servers and ETERNUS storage systems makes our e-mail system reliable and fail-safe. Besides that, our administrators truly appreciate its easy manageability.«

Klaus Stumm, Administrator, Globus SB-Warenhaus Holding GmbH & Co. KG



Family-owned business true to its roots for over 180 years

The roots of the German hypermarket chain Globus SB-Warenhäuser lie in St.Wendel, Saarland, where the first store was founded in 1928. As one of the few independent family businesses in the German retail sector, Globus has developed into one of the leading commercial enterprises in Germany. In 2008 Globus SB-Warenhäuser was the first company in the German retail industry awarded the “berufundfamilie” certificate from the non-profit Hertie Foundation for its family-friendly policies and practice. Presently Globus employs about 31,000 full-time and part-time staff almost all of whom are subject to social insurance contributions. Another unique feature is that approximately 50 percent of their staff have taken shares in the company as silent partners. In the financial year 2009/2010 the Globus Group was able to boost sales by 3.6 percent to 5.9 billion euros.

Solid foundation for Microsoft Exchange 2010

In order to make the electronic communications of the head office and the 40 hypermarkets in Germany failsafe, Globus SB-Warenhaus Holding GmbH & Co. KG was searching for a new e-mail concept. In the first instance, a decision was reached on the software. Since the company has relied on Microsoft solutions for many years already, it forthrightly opted for an updated version of Microsoft Exchange. Exchange Server 2010 is provided with numerous enhanced features that simplify the management of e-mail data and alleviate the performance requirements for the IT environment. Nevertheless, a secure and stable hardware base is necessary to avoid any accidental loss of data. After careful consideration Globus has opted for an IT environment comprising PRIMERGY RX300 servers, ETERNUS DX80 storage systems and a tape library from Oracle StorageTek as the backup solution. “We highly appreciate the outstanding interaction with our Fujitsu contacts,” explains Klaus Stumm, Administrator at Globus. “The quality of their service delivery is impeccable, too,” he adds.

The customer

Besides a total of 40 hypermarkets, 78 DIY markets and 9 consumer electronics stores in Germany, the Globus Group also includes 19 full-range providers in the Czech Republic and Russia as well as 2 DIY markets in Luxembourg. www.globus.de



The challenge

A new hardware base including a backup system for the e-mail system of the Globus head office and its stores in Germany on the basis of Microsoft Exchange Server 2010.

The solution

PRIMERGY servers and ETERNUS DX storage systems from Fujitsu as well as an Oracle StorageTek SL3000 tape library as the backup solution.

The benefit

- Maximum fail-safety of the e-mail environment
- High performance
- Lower energy costs due to energy-efficient server and storage systems

Products and services

- Server: 4 x PRIMERGY RX300 S6
- Storage systems: 5 x ETERNUS DX80 with a total of 192 TB
- Backup system: Oracle StorageTek SL3000 Modular Library System
- E-mail solution: Microsoft Exchange Server 2010
- Archiving software: Symantec Enterprise Vault
- Manageability software: Fujitsu ServerView, ETERNUS SF Express

Simple configuration

In its data center Globus now deploys a total of four PRIMERGY RX300 servers for the operation of their e-mail environment based on Microsoft Exchange Server 2010. Each of the servers forms a data availability group (DAG) together with one ETERNUS DX80 system each. A fifth ETERNUS system serves as a spare system. Not least Globus Administrator Klaus Stumm was enthusiastic about the smooth implementation of the systems:

"ETERNUS DX80 storage systems convince through their excellent cost-performance ratio and the integrated manageability solution ETERNUS SF Express – their simplicity is topnotch which facilitates the configuration of the systems significantly. Besides, this solution enables us to manage our ETERNUS systems from a single console."

Good scalability

Globus stores all Exchange data from the head office in St. Wendel and all Globus markets in Germany on ETERNUS DX80 systems. For this purpose, each ETERNUS system has been provided with 24 disks with 2 TB each, i.e. 48 TB per system, respectively 192 TB for all four productive systems. "This leaves us with sufficient leeway for future expansions," Klaus Stumm comments. A prime advantage of these disk storage systems is their good scalability. Through expansion units it is essentially possible to expand each system up to 120 disks, which corresponds to a total storage capacity of 240 TB.

E-mail software growing smarter

"The features of Microsoft Exchange 2010 have actually evolved," Klaus Stumm explains. "Running an e-mail environment with this solution truly constitutes an advantage. Mirroring, for instance, has become

obsolete: In case of a storage system failure, the software automatically switches to another system." In addition, this new version requires less server performance than its predecessors. Compared to Exchange 2003 the necessary transfer performance of mailbox data (IOPS) can be cut down to approximately 10 percent. With Exchange 2007 the reference value in comparison with the 2010 version is 3:1. Thus Microsoft Exchange 2010 requires 70 percent less hardware performance than the previous versions.

Backup on tape library

To be certain that no e-mail goes astray in the Globus data universe, all Exchange data additionally flows to a backup solution. With the Oracle StorageTek SL3000 Modular Library System – integrated into the storage area network (SAN) via a fibre channel and housed in a special safety cell for maximum protection – Globus disposes of a sophisticated tape library. The scalability is enormous here as well. For the time being, Globus has chosen a configuration level with five LTO-4 drives and 400 slots for tape cartridges. However, if need be, it is possible to expand the storage capacity up to 56 drives and 5,925 tapes. The archiving system deployed is Symantec Enterprise Vault that guarantees not only the safe archiving and quick recovery of e-mails, but also the adherence to compliance guidelines. After all, the German legislature has established certain retention periods for archiving electronic business correspondence. In addition these e-mails have to be archived in a revision-safe form, i.e. subsequent changes are made impossible. Hence, Globus SB-Warenhäuser is completely on the safe side with their e-mail environment. Accordingly, Klaus Stumm's summary of the project is thoroughly positive in every respect: "Thanks to this turn-key solution our e-mail environment is now fail-safe and legally compliant – what more could you ask?"



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