

CASE STUDY

CENTRAL DATA PROCESSING CENTER FOR THE SAARLAND (ZDV SAAR)

»AS WE ARE ALSO PARTICIPATING IN THE KONSENS PROCESS HERE IN THE SAARLAND, WE ARE ABSOLUTELY SURE THAT THE NEW FUJITSU MAINFRAME WILL FULLY MEET OUR FUTURE COMPUTING REQUIREMENTS.«

Udo Kläs, System Administrator for Mainframes, Zentrale Datenverarbeitungsstelle für das Saarland



JUST THE RIGHT TIME FOR NEW HARDWARE

Mainframes play a central role in the data centers of public administration authorities and government agencies. Thanks to mainframe computing power, agency employees are able to efficiently process documents and requests submitted by vast numbers of citizens. The Central Data Processing Center for the Saarland (ZDV Saar) is responsible for the IT used in the state's various agencies and makes sure that all institutions in the infrastructure can work together effectively. The most important element in the IT center of the Saarland State Administration is a mainframe system. However, in mid-2009, it became clear that this mainframe was reaching its performance limits more and more frequently. This was due to the constantly growing volume of data being processed, which kept the mainframe running at full capacity. The administrators at ZDV Saar quickly realized that just upgrading the system would not be enough to solve the performance problems. The system had been running for too many years and was simply obsolete. Therefore, the IT team decided to invest in a new mainframe solution.

THE HEART OF IT FOR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATORS IN THE SAARLAND: THE MAINFRAME FROM FUJITSU

ZDV Saar has trusted and relied on mainframes from Fujitsu for more than 40 years now. During this time the ZDV, the official IT service provider for the Saarland, was very satisfied with the performance of these mainframes. Thanks to this good experience there was no question who the partner for this new project should be. The only open questions were related to the particular system model needed and the dimensioning. The parameters taken into consideration were the average system utilization along with the peak workloads, as well as the speed at which data needed to be processed. Connectivity for other hardware components was also a critical factor, in addition to the cost effectiveness of the investment. After evaluating all the results, the ZDV Saar selected the BS2000/Open Server Dimension (OSD) Server S165 from Fujitsu. As soon as the extensive and smooth-running test phase was successfully completed, ZDV Saar put the new business server into productive operation. And the heart of the new solution did not disappoint: More than 3,000 employees in various state agencies now have easy data access plus fast responses to their computer queries.

THE CUSTOMER

ZDV Saar is the IT service center for the State Administration of the Saarland and is responsible for central services related to data processing, office technology and communication networks.

www.saarland.de/zdv-saar.htm



THE PROJECT

Replacing an obsolete data center system with a new mainframe.

THE SOLUTION

BS2000/Open Server Dimension (OSD) Server S165

BENEFITS FOR THE CUSTOMER

- Powerful, flexible and stable IT platform
- Highest data availability
- Fast response times
- Cost effectiveness through low TCO
- Less administration required
- More energy efficiency in the data center
- Long-term investment protection

HARDWARE, SOFTWARE, SERVICES

- BS2000/Open Server Dimension (OSD) Server S165

SUSTAINABLE IT PLATFORM FOR STATE AGENCIES

In the Saarland and elsewhere: The demands made of IT are continuously increasing. One reason for this is the fact that applications are undergoing continuous further development, and also because changes in laws can lead to significant increases in the volume of data that needs to be processed. And these are changes that should be handled directly by the IT teams in state agencies. Now that may sound like something that is quite obvious, but it places very high demands on technology and the IT managers responsible for it. In its role as IT service provider, ZDV Saar supports the IT in all of the state’s public administration agencies. Until recently most of the performance needed for this task was delivered by an aging mainframe system that was reaching its limits. As the flood of data continued to increase, the mainframe could no longer provide the power needed to keep pace. And that was not a good basis for responding to ever changing business requirements. There was absolutely no question about it – the ZDV knew that it needed a new and powerful mainframe soon. Udo Kläs, System Administrator for Mainframes at ZVD, explains why the mainframe is so important: “A mainframe can manage huge volumes of data much faster and more efficiently than various types of servers can. What’s more, it can also easily and efficiently categorize and store data so that unauthorized persons cannot access it. This is a very important factor when dealing with sensitive personal data.” The IT team defined key criteria to support them in finding just the right mainframe system to meet their requirements:

- Cost effectiveness of the investment
- Performance range based on pre-defined minimum requirements
- Multiple connectivity

The search was relatively easy because ZDV Saar had relied on high-quality and reliable systems from Fujitsu for several decades. The fact that the Saarland was participating in the KONSENS process (a coordinated program throughout Germany for developing new software for tax administration) was also an aspect that influenced the choice of the Fujitsu mainframe. All the federal states in Germany are using BS2000/OSD as the standardized mainframe platform for developing KONSENS.

Therefore, the real challenge facing the IT team in this project was to decide which Fujitsu mainframe would be the ideal choice and how it should be dimensioned. The team ultimately selected the Business Server S165. After spending two weeks to prepare and set up the system with power supplies and applications, the team starting running the mainframe under test conditions. After one week of smooth and trouble-free testing, the Fujitsu mainframe was ready to go into productive operation. Just to be on the safe side, the new mainframe and the old system were run in parallel for seven days before the obsolete mainframe was finally disconnected from the network.

THE MAINFRAME SERVER YOU CAN RELY ON

The S165 is a high-end server. Thanks to its newly developed processors, this new S Series generation offers higher system performance, enhanced configuration options, the highest levels of availability and, last but not least, drastically reduced energy consumption. These are features and advantages that deliver considerable benefits to the ZDV Saar data center. IT in the Saarland is ready to meet the challenges of the future with the S165. The mainframe supports taxation, computer-supported land registry administration, human resources applications (payroll, compensation, administration, benefits) and communication with the Federal Statistical Office of Germany and social insurance authorities.

ECONOMICAL, FLEXIBLE AND ENERGY EFFICIENT

The BS2000/OSD Server S165 mainframe stands for high levels of cost effectiveness, flexibility, data availability and energy efficiency. It is also well-known for its extremely reliable and stable performance which requires very little administration. System administrator Udo Kläs really appreciates these features, and he is convinced that his team has chosen the right mainframe system at just the right time. He says:

“LONG-TERM INVESTMENT PROTECTION IS GUARANTEED. WE EXPECT TO KEEP OUR NEW FUJITSU MAINFRAME IN OPERATION FOR THE NEXT FIVE TO SEVEN YEARS.”

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