"With the all-flash storage systems from Fujitsu, we have a fail-safe, highly available, mirrored cluster that provides reliable and stable IT storage for our critical data."

Andre Ifland
System Administrator
Warsteiner Brewery

Fujitsu has implemented a highly available and reliable storage cluster at Warsteiner Brewery based on high-performance ETERNUS AF250 systems.

At a glance
Country: Germany
Industry: Brewing
Founded: 1753
Website: www.warsteiner.com

Challenge
The storage infrastructure at Warsteiner Brewery was outdated and needed to be completely replaced. The poor performance of the existing systems meant that they could no longer meet the growing demands.

Solution
Fujitsu brought Warsteiner Brewery's storage architecture up to speed with two ETERNUS AF250 all-flash systems. The storage cluster ensures maximum availability, stability and reliability, thanks to fast and powerful all-flash storage technology and PRIMERGY RX servers of the next generation.

Benefit
■ Highly available storage cluster for fail-safe systems
■ IT storage for critical production data and application data
■ Fast and powerful all-flash storage technology
■ Improved SAP system performance
■ Response times reduced by 50 percent
■ High storage capacity, even without data deduplication and compression

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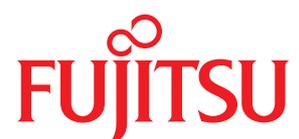
Customer

Warsteiner Brewery is one of the largest private breweries in Germany. Founded in 1753, it has been in the family for nine generations. The Warsteiner Group includes the Herforder Brewery, Frankenheim Brewery, Paderborner Brewery and a holding in König Ludwig Schlossbrauerei. Warsteiner actively markets its products in over 50 countries around the world.

Products and Services

- 2 x FUJITSU ETERNUS AF250 storage system
- System connection via fiber channel
- 7x FUJITSU Server PRIMERGY RX5240

Data transmission

To model its business processes, Warsteiner Brewery requires a reliable and powerful IT basis that includes a fail-safe storage infrastructure. For this purpose, the company was operating a storage solution from a U.S. manufacturer in its data centers. However, this solution was already six years old and its support costs were high. The system had also reached its limits in terms of performance and space requirements. Consequently, those in charge of Warsteiner's IT decided to replace the existing storage environment and invest in new hardware components. "Our old systems were still equipped with rotating spindles. We wanted to replace them with the latest all-flash technology to make them state of the art," recalls Andre Ifland, System Administrator at Warsteiner.

The new storage solution had to guarantee highly available processes at two sites located three kilometers apart using transparent data mirroring. The two sites are linked via an old 3-kilometer pipeline that Warsteiner continues to use for connecting the data centers at both locations via optical fiber cable. The cable has only a limited number of wires for data transport, so Andre Ifland looked for a storage system that would accommodate this situation. He analyzed several solutions as part of a benchmarking process. "Most of the systems required more wires. We would have had to find a technological solution that generates additional channels for data transmission. However, this would not only have meant additional costs, but might also have resulted in new errors and thus increased the risk of failure."

Storage clusters from two ETERNUS AF250 systems

Through his market research, Andre Ifland found out about Fujitsu's storage solution. It was the only solution that could cope with the existing number of wires – which was only one of the reasons why the IT pro chose the system. Another reason was that Warsteiner Brewery has been successfully operating several FUJITSU PRIMERGY servers since 2015. Based on his positive experiences and high level of satisfaction with Fujitsu technology, Andre Ifland naturally turned to the same provider for the new storage solution. The IT administrator invested in two high-performance FUJITSU ETERNUS AF250 storage systems. These systems are connected via fiber channel and form a storage cluster that spans the two Warsteiner locations situated three kilometers apart. 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 Fiber Channel switch rather than the standard 8Gb version.

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The partner, the system integrator SVA System Vertrieb Alexander GmbH, played a major role in the implementation, together with a team of experts from Paderborn. In just two days, one employee installed the entire system to the point of full operability. "With the ETERNUS AF250 solution, setup, operation and administration can be managed very easily and intuitively. Once installed, system operation is extremely stable and error-free," says Ruben Sauer, Key Account Manager for SVA. The solution stores all data classified as highly available from the many critical production systems, including those for inventory management, ERP, production control, laboratory information management, warehouse management and logistics. One tremendous advantage of the ETERNUS system is that it provides a high hardware capacity that can handle Warsteiner's 65 terabytes of critical data at an especially economical cost-benefit ratio. This means that it requires no software features like data deduplication or compression.

Solid basis for SAP S/4HANA

"With the ETERNUS AF250 systems, we have a fail-safe, highly available, mirrored storage cluster that serves as a reliable and stable IT basis for our critical production data," says Andre Ifland.

Thanks to the all-flash technology, Warsteiner also benefits from much higher performance when operating the SAP system. According to the SAP EarlyWatch Alert, the average response time for queries and transactions has been reduced from 1,500 to 700 milliseconds since the implementation of the new system. The storage system's certification for SAP HANA is also important for the brewery. "We plan to migrate to SAP S/4HANA over the medium term. By investing in ETERNUS AF250, we've laid a solid foundation," says the system administrator.

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