

Case Study

LKC Group

»Fujitsu's blade servers and storage systems allowed us to boost performance by up to 40% and significantly increase our security standards. As auditors, tax advisers and lawyers, we have a great deal of responsibility with regard to data security and availability, particularly in terms of professional guidelines«

Robert M. Beck, Auditor, Tax Advisor and Partner at LKC Group
Peter Jordan, IT Risk Manager and Partner at LKC Group



The customer

Country: Germany
Industry sector: Auditing/tax advice
Founded in: 1969
Employees: 250
Website: www.lkc.de



The challenge

Increasing data security at LKC's eleven sites nationwide and boosting performance for the 250 IT workstations that access the central LKC data center. Server capacities should also be expanded but without taking up any more floor space in the rooms available.

The solution

Centralized storage concept based on FUJITSU Storage ETERNUS DX90 S2 systems combined with high-performance and space-saving FUJITSU Server PRIMERGY BX400 blade systems.

The customer

LKC is made up of a network of eleven partner offices (mostly in Bavaria and Berlin) with a total of 250 employees and headquarters in Gruenwald near Munich. LKC helps clients of all sizes – including foundations and municipalities – with all auditing, tax advice and legal matters. In particular, LKC also offers auditing and advisory services relating to IT risk management, IT system checks and process assessment. The company also has highly qualified specialists in special auditing and transactions. The LKC Group is a member of HLB International, a global network of independent auditing companies, tax advisers and business advisers

The challenge

Previously, the heterogeneous IT infrastructure in the eleven locations had no standardized Group-wide data security concept. This meant that data was saved or secured locally. In addition, server capacities were reaching their limits in the first configuration level of the LKC data center. This is the site of central applications, such as DATEV, that all LKC employees can access. "We also wanted to enhance data security and increase data availability," explains Peter Jordan, IT Risk Manager and Partner at the LKC Group. "Rather than running our IT operations ourselves, we wanted to outsource them to a competent IT partner."

The solution

ITM GmbH, a Fujitsu SELECT Partner based in Munich and Rosenheim, developed a concept for the LKC Group that includes both centralized data security and failover measures. The new backup solution follows the "backup to disk to tape" principle. Both storage systems and a tape library from Fujitsu were used. The previous servers have also been replaced by Fujitsu systems. The data center, which is divided into three fire zones, is situated on the LKC premises but is operated by ITM GmbH via remote tools.

The benefit

The LKC Group combines its advisory services and annual audits for its clients with analyses of IT structures and IT-supported business processes. These also encompass security and reliability, compliance and company stock reliability. A tried-and-tested concept is used to systematically scrutinize potential business risks and the measures taken by the company

The benefit

- Central and standardized backup management for all LKC locations
- Increased performance for all applications
- Greater operational security and availability
- High scalability
- Lower energy costs thanks to economical systems

to counteract them in order to protect assets. Possible improvements are also recommended. "We were able to use these experiences when designing our data center," explains Peter Jordan, who helps LKC's clients with matters of IT risk management and compliance. "By developing and modernizing our IT operations, we wanted to meet the increasing needs of our growing company. In ITM GmbH, we have found a partner that offers industry knowledge and puts real thought into its work."

This was necessary because housing a high-performance and mirrored data center in minimum space proved to be a real challenge. "Larger-scale modifications would have been difficult," highlights Ljubodrag Mikulovic, System Architect and Project Manager at ITM GmbH. "The most appropriate approach was a room-in-room solution. We used the existing Lampertz safety cabinets to create three fire zones in two rooms to ensure high system stability."

One fire zone contained a PRIMERGY BX400 S1 blade server and a PRIMERGY RX200 server for the DataCore storage mirroring solution as well as an ETERNUS DX90 S2 disk storage system. The second zone contained a mirrored blade server system and a PRIMERGY RX300 server as the vCenter for server virtualization as well as an ETERNUS LT40 tape library for backup. The third, and smallest, Lampertz zone hosted an ETERNUS storage system and a DataCore server, both mirrored systems.

"Fujitsu's smaller blade servers were simply perfect for us because they allowed us to optimize the space," praises Robert M. Beck, Auditor, Tax Advisor and Partner at the LKC Group. "Thanks to Fujitsu, energy consumption has dropped by 50%, the systems are generating less heat, but server performance has stayed the same."

Products and services

- Servers: 2 x FUJITSU Server PRIMERGY BX400S1, 1 x FUJITSU Server PRIMERGY RX300, 2 x FUJITSU Server PRIMERGY RX200
- Storage systems: 2 x FUJITSU Storage ETERNUS DX90 S2
- Tape library: 1 x FUJITSU Storage ETERNUS LT40 with LTO5
- Storage virtualization: DataCore SANsymphony-V
- Server virtualization: VMware vSphere
- Services: Maintenance & Support via ITM GmbH (Rosenheim, Munich), a Fujitsu SELECT Partner

For Robert M. Beck and the Group's 250 other employees, this step towards a more modern data center has paid off. "All applications in the central data center, which we access from the branches, are now between 30% and 40% quicker. And the DATEV solutions have seen a 10% rise in performance."

System stability has also increased significantly. The storage systems are mirrored via DataCore. Should a failure occur, an automated failover process will intervene. The blade servers are also safeguarded by their twins. In the event of a failure, individual virtual machines can be started from the backup in just a few minutes.

Conclusion

The rise in data security has been a real 'Service-Plus' to the LKC Group because, with a central and professional data center and an appropriate access authorization concept, its clients' data is stored more securely than at the individual offices. ITM GmbH moved over to the new system in just one weekend and without a hitch. Overall, it will now cost less to expand and develop LKC's IT operations than before, thanks to the centralized storage and applications and the easily scalable Fujitsu systems. The next item on the agenda is to introduce a central document management system for all eleven LKC locations. LKC partners Robert M. Beck and Peter Jordan are extremely satisfied with the results:

"In ITM GmbH, we have found a suitable technology partner who has successfully developed our IT infrastructure. Using reliable Fujitsu systems has also ensured a high standard of quality and security for both us and our clients."

In collaboration with



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