

“Fujitsu has helped us modernize and optimize our storage infrastructure. Thanks to the ETERNUS storage cluster, we are able to provide a highly available infrastructure for our IT services.”

Thomas Reichssöllner
Head of Information and Communication
Technology
Tauern Medical Center

The Tauern Medical Center has implemented a redundant, highly available and reliable storage cluster with hardware from the FUJITSU ETERNUS storage family.

At a glance

Country: Austria
Industry: Health care
Founded: 1895
Website: www.tauernklinikum.at



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Challenge

The Tauern Medical Center was looking for a storage concept for its locations in Zell am See and Mittersill, Austria, one that would meet high availability and reliability requirements and yet be easy to administer.

Solution

Together with its SELECT Expert system partner ACP IT Solutions, Fujitsu implemented a redundant, highly available and reliable storage cluster with components from the FUJITSU ETERNUS DX storage hardware family. These components can be administered easily and uniformly, thanks to the family concept.

Benefit

- High availability and reliability, thanks to the redundant storage cluster
- 99.9999-percent system availability
- Top placement in the SPC-1 benchmark test, with extremely short response times and high performance
- Optimum use of memory, thanks to automated storage tiering (AST)
- Easy administration, thanks to the family concept

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Customer

More than 900 employees of the Tauern Medical Center's two locations in Zell am See and Mittersill provide health care services to local residents and tourists in the Pinzgau region. The two facilities merged to form the Tauern Medical Center in 2016. The hospital in Zell am See has a history that goes all the way back to 1895. The market hospital opened in 1908 under the name "Mittersiller Asyl für Kranke" (Mittersill Asylum for the Sick). Today it is a central element of the health care system in Upper Pinzgau.

Products and services

- 11 x FUJITSU PRIMERGY RX2540 servers as the virtualization platform, management server and backup server
- 1 x FUJITSU LT40 tape library with two LTO tape drives
- 2 x FUJITSU ETERNUS DX200 storage systems, including automated storage tiering (AST) and ETERNUS storage cluster with 16 Gbit brocade fiber channel infrastructure
- 1 x FUJITSU ETERNUS DX60 storage system

Invitation to bid on new storage infrastructure

The IT infrastructures in hospitals must meet strict requirements. They must be secure, highly available and reliable to ensure that the medical facility continues to operate without interruption at all times. This was also the reason why the Tauern Medical Center wanted to modernize its server and storage infrastructure following the merger between its two locations in Zell am See and Mittersill in 2016. The precise specifications were defined in a tendering process. "We were looking for a solution tailored to health care service providers and our size," remembers Thomas Reichssöllner, head of IT at the Tauern Medical Center. "And one with the right price/performance ratio. Fujitsu met both criteria."

"It became quickly clear during the offer phase that Fujitsu would reliably address our individual needs. Another bonus was that a sales representative and a technician were always on site, which greatly shortened the offer phase." No wonder that Fujitsu was awarded the contract and was able to carry out the project together with the system provider ACP IT Solutions from Salzburg.

Cluster for the Zell am See and Mittersill locations

Fujitsu designed an ETERNUS storage cluster for the central IT services in Zell am See and a smaller solution for the local IT services in Mittersill that could not be transferred to Zell am See. A total of eleven FUJITSU PRIMERGY RX2540 servers are in use: Eight servers in Zell am See and one server in Mittersill act as a virtualization platform for VMware. One operates as a backup server with Veritas Netbackup, and the last one is used as a management server.

The storage solution includes an ETERNUS storage cluster, consisting of two FUJITSU ETERNUS DX200 storage systems, including automated storage tiering (AST), in Zell am See and one ETERNUS DX60 storage system in Mittersill. A FUJITSU ETERNUS LT40 tape library is deployed in a third location, which is separate from the others for fire and disaster reasons.

The ETERNUS DX200 is extremely suitable for use as a data storage solution for server virtualization, email services, centralized file services as well as for database and enterprise applications. The Tauern Medical Center thus benefits from comprehensive scalability. The storage solution also demonstrates excellent benchmark results (SPC-1), with an extremely low latency period and an optimum price/performance ratio. Transparent failover mechanisms ensure 100-percent data security and uninterrupted operation with a system availability of 99.9999 percent. The ETERNUS DX200 is thus the ideal disk storage system for implementing a highly available storage platform for medium-sized IT environments. Although it is a small system, the

ETERNUS DX60 offers very high availability for branch offices and smaller environments.

Automated storage tiering

The automated storage tiering functionality comes into play for the best possible use of the storage functionality. It automatically shifts data blocks between different hard drive types and RAID levels to find the right balance between performance and use of storage space. This enables the Tauern Medical Center to shift frequently accessed data to high-speed drives such as SSDs and less frequently accessed data to economical, high-capacity hard drives. The medical center then backs up long-term data on tape.

Keep it simple! – benefits of the family concept

"Fujitsu pursues a family concept with its ETERNUS storage family. This means that the storage administration process is more or less identical for all enterprise sizes and hardware models," explains Reinhard Fuchs-Huber of ACP from Salzburg. This is an enormous advantage if the storage solution consists of different ETERNUS systems, as is the case with the Tauern Medical Center. "The software administration differs only in terms of the size and speed of the individual systems," Reinhard Fuchs-Huber adds.

Reliability and performance are many times higher

"The reliability and performance of our systems today are many times higher than before," rejoices Thomas Reichssöllner. "Even if we expand or change our server landscape, we can do so without any downtime or impact on performance. In this way, we can implement new systems quickly and without risk. We have already expanded the systems multiple times, and it went very smoothly."

Thanks to the good collaborative work and satisfaction, the Tauern Medical Center also replaced its desktop PCs and notebooks with machines from Fujitsu. Reichssöllner sums up: "A fast offer phase, smooth implementation, optimum collaboration with ACP as the partner, outstanding on-site technical support and an infrastructure that fully meets its requirements – we could not be more satisfied."

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Get in contact with a sales representative at: cic@ts.fujitsu.com

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