



“We would not have been able to expand our infrastructure as quickly as we did without PRIMEFLEX.”

Bernd Grande
Head of IT
Globus Gruppe



Globus now has a highly virtualized platform which can be used to connect and visualize all of the IT processes associated with the flow of goods across all of its sites.

At a glance

Country: Germany
Industry: Retail
Founded: 1828
Employees: 17,900
Website: www.globus.de

Challenge

In order to use its new SAP environment to establish a central ERP system for its entire network of branches, the company needed a performant and flexible hardware architecture.

Solution

Fujitsu provided a comprehensive “PRIMEFLEX® for SAP Landscapes” concept, comprising FUJITSU x86 servers, Cisco Nexus network components, NetApp storage solutions and virtualization software from VMware.

Benefit

- Increased flexibility to expand its IT infrastructure
- Highly scalable solution that can be adapted to future demands
- Allows the SAP landscape to be operated reliably and securely
- Centralized ERP system enables the company to standardize the way processes are visualized and managed
- New sites and branches can be integrated into the system easily

Customer

The history of the Globus Gruppe dates back to 1828, when its founder Franz Bruch opened his first shop. Today, the retailer employs some 17,900 people. One key part of its business strategy is the diverse range of products it offers: each hypermarket has up to 100,000 different items for sale. In the 2014/2015 financial year, the Globus Gruppe achieved sales of around 7 billion Euro, and it is continuing to expand. Globus will open its 47th hypermarket in Rüsselsheim, further consolidating its position in the Rhine-Main region.

Products and services

- Server and storage capacities determined by a comprehensive sizing assessment
- Comprehensive PRIMEFLEX® for SAP Landscapes concept
- Integrated system comprising FUJITSU x86 servers, Cisco Nexus network devices and NetApp network attached storage (NAS) solutions, all sourced from a single supplier
- Highly virtualized using VMware



Challenge

Up until 2010, Globus' enterprise resource planning (ERP) system was completely decentralized. Each branch had its own server landscape and operated its own ERP solution. It was therefore almost impossible for the Group to connect all of the business processes being carried out across its numerous sites. In order to optimize the flow of data and goods between the individual stores and distribution centers, the retailer needed a single, centralized ERP solution. The management team therefore decided to implement a comprehensive SAP environment with SAP Retail as its ERP module. However, the Group's existing IT infrastructure was not sufficient to run the solution and needed upgrades in terms of both server and storage capacities and network components.

Solution

Fujitsu began by carrying out a comprehensive sizing assessment to determine the server and storage capacities required. From the results, its experts were able to develop a universal PRIMEFLEX® configuration on which to run the company's various SAP systems. It designed an integrated system comprising server, storage, connectivity and software components that would be preinstalled and tested for the Group's specific use cases. The infrastructure Fujitsu configured for Globus comprises FUJITSU x86 servers, Cisco Nexus network devices and NetApp network attached storage (NAS) solutions. The hardware landscape is split across two data centers and is heavily virtualized with VMware.

Benefit

The Fujitsu PRIMEFLEX architecture is designed to meet Globus' requirements exactly. It offers the degree of flexibility the company needs to expand its IT infrastructure and operate its SAP landscape securely and reliably. At the start of the project, Globus did not have a concrete roadmap as to which SAP systems would be integrated at which stage. With the Fujitsu solution, the available resources can be adapted to suit the company's growing demands precisely.

The system landscape can also be combined with the VMware virtualization platform as needed. This was particularly important for Globus as physical hardware resources are becoming less and less popular. According to Head of IT Bernd Grande, having virtualized systems has enabled the company to operate its landscape more flexibly and granularly. The Group is currently running around 40 SAP systems on 260 virtual servers.

The Fujitsu solution has given the Globus Gruppe a stable, highly available and reliable basis on which to operate its SAP landscape. As its ERP system is now centralized, the company can visualize and manage standard retail processes such as ordering, warehousing, logistics and financial transactions across all of its sites. The new Fujitsu solution has made these processes more efficient, streamlined and cost-effective.

The high scalability of the PRIMEFLEX solution also supports the retailer's expansion strategy: the new sites it is planning in Germany and Eastern Europe can be integrated into the central SAP landscape very easily. Globus will also have the option to use the high performance in-memory database SAP HANA in future, as the architecture provided by Fujitsu is already set up and configured accordingly.

"The main advantage of PRIMEFLEX is that the architecture can pretty much grow with our demands. We started with just a few SAP systems and expanded the capacities gradually. The system platform has all the scalability we need. We can now add new SAP systems quickly and flexibly whenever we like," concludes Bernd Grande, Head of IT, Globus Gruppe.

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