Case Study
Basel Aero

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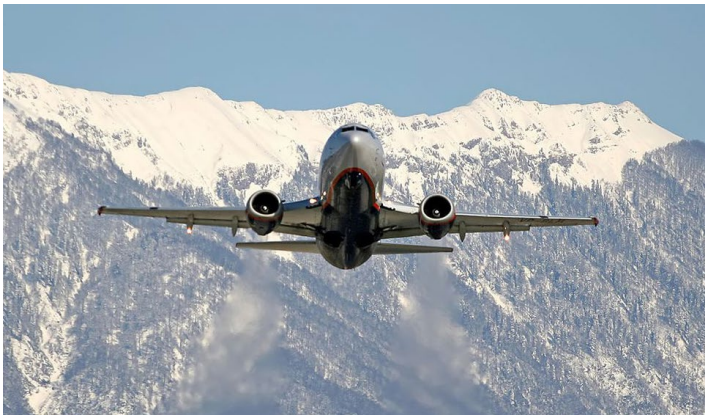
Alexander Kolesnikov, IT Director, Basel Aero



The customer

Country: Russia
Industry: Aviation
Founded: 2007
Website: www.basel.aero

The challenge

To keep up with the rapid growth of its Krasnodar and Sochi airports, Basel Aero needed to build a robust and highly-scalable IT infrastructure that could support the operation of several hundred virtual desktops serving the numerous non-core activities of these airports. Increasing the fleet of non-virtualized PCs any further became impracticable as it was too costly and labor-intensive. The existing IT infrastructure also lacked sufficient flexibility for quick scalability.

The solution

To solve these tasks, company management decided to build and deploy a server cluster based on Fujitsu PRIMERGY BX900 blade chassis with PRIMERGY BX924 server blades, the Fujitsu ETERNUS DX200 data storage system, and Fujitsu FUTRO L420 zero clients. The VDI infrastructure was deployed using VMware software products of the following lines: ESXi 5.5, vCenter Server 5, VMware vSphere with Operations Management 5.5 and Horizon 6 View.

The customer

Established in 2007, Basel Aero manages airport assets of Basic Element, one of Russia's leading diversified industrial groups. Since June 2012, Basel Aero is a joint venture of Basic Element, Sberbank of Russia, and Changi Airports International (a wholly owned subsidiary of Changi Airport Group). Basel Aero currently unites airports in Krasnodar, Sochi, Gelendzhik and Anapa. They serve over 8% of Russia's total passenger traffic and 2% of cargo traffic. Basel Aero is one of the airport industry leaders in terms of development of regional airports in Russia. Basel Aero ranks among the top 3 airport groups in Russia (2008 - 2014).

The challenge

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Before choosing equipment for deploying a virtual desktop infrastructure, company management looked at solutions offered by several vendors, comparing their price and quality parameters. Server equipment was also tested for a long time. For one and a half months, the Fujitsu server was tested by imitating desktop virtualization using one server blade paired with a workstation.

After a thorough evaluation, the buyer concluded that Fujitsu equipment satisfied all requirements of Basel Aero and was able to solve all existing and potential tasks that require high-performance server capacity. A decisive factor in the choice of the vendor was that Fujitsu was able to offer all the required system components for VDI – from zero clients to servers and data storage systems.

The benefit

- Ease of deployment of virtual and physical machines
- Dynamic scalability
- Fully unified architecture

Products and services

- FUJITSU Server PRIMERGY BX900
- FUJITSU Server PRIMERGY BX924 server blades
- FUJITSU Storage ETERNUS DX200
- FUJITSU FUTRO L420 zero client

The solution

The project goals were to improve the performance of the existing IT infrastructure, reduce costs, and provide the IT department and non-core services with tools for greater efficiency.

To build a server system to support the VDI of Basel Aero, the vendor selected the Fujitsu PRIMERGY BX900 blade chassis, the Fujitsu PRIMERGY BX924 S4 server blade, and the Fujitsu ETERNUS DX200 S3 data storage system.

Virtual desktops run on Fujitsu FUTRO L420 zero clients. Workstations with the VMware Horizon View software client are used as client devices in individual cases. As a smart zero client, the FUJITSU FUTRO L420 provides high security, easy management and zero noise, whilst being user-friendly and integrating easily into an existing VMware network.

The server cluster supporting the virtual desktop infrastructure is connected to the Fujitsu ETERNUS DX200 data storage system. The storage system is segregated into two storages: the faster one and the slower one. The faster storage is intended for storing virtual machine images and deploying them quickly, while the slower storage is designed for storing data of infrastructure users. This storage system delivers enterprise-class functionality with an optimum price/performance ratio. The ETERNUS DX family architecture lets customers benefit from such software options as thin provisioning, automatic storage tiering, transparent failover and quality-of-service management even as early as the entry-level class. This all contributes to better business performance.

The benefit

The result of the first project phase are 300 workstations at the Krasnodar and Sochi airports. The available server capacity allows further system expansion, with enough capacity to double the number of virtual workstations at the Krasnodar and Sochi airports to 300 workstations each.

The key benefit of the project for the customer is that a small volume of available resources can now be used to serve an extensive range of needs. It has also delivered greater flexibility, as the existing server infrastructure can be used both to support virtual desktops and quickly reallocate available resources for new projects on demand.

"We looked at solutions by various leading vendors, compared technology features, total cost of ownership, and overall computing capacity per unit of investment. After a thorough evaluation of competing solutions, it became clear to us that Fujitsu equipment fully satisfied all of our requirements, combining an affordable price with the functionality tailored to our day-to-day needs," says Alexander Kolesnikov, IT Director at Basel Aero.

Conclusion

The next step in developing the IT infrastructure of Basel Aero involves expanding the usage scenarios for virtual desktops, increasing VDI usage efficiency, and gradually replacing PCs and laptops with thin or zero clients. The company is also planning to develop the software end of the system to enable company management to use their work applications remotely. Future plans include building a disaster-tolerant infrastructure based on a line of VMware products.

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