dbh
dbh Logistics IT AG

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Rudolf Klassen
Head of IT Services
dbh Logistics IT AG

dbh installs a FUJITSU Storage ETERNUS DX200 system with a transparent failover solution to ensure that the system keeps running even in a disaster scenario.

At a glance

Country: Germany
Industry: Software
Founded: 1973
Employees: 180
Website: www.dbh.de

Challenge

dbh Logistics existing system was unable to cope with the rising demand for storage space and would struggle in the event of a disaster recovery scenario.

Solution

dbh installed a FUJITSU Storage ETERNUS DX200 system with a transparent failover solution for disaster recovery. The new, highly reliable system enables the company to offer higher value service level agreements to its customers.

Benefit

■ Disaster recovery through transparent failover

■ High reliability

■ Fast backups

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Customer

dbh Logistics IT AG (dbh) is a leading software and consulting service provider in the fields of customs and foreign trade, compliance, transport management, port management, SAP and data center solutions. The company benefits from more than 40 years' experience in developing sector-specific solutions for industry and retail, haulage and logistics, shipping and ports. Its portfolio covers everything from consultation, design, development and implementation to hosting and support. At its data centers in Bremen, dbh runs both individual applications and a range of complex IT infrastructures and SAP systems.

Products and services

- 2 x FUJITSU Storage ETERNUS DX200
- 2 x 100 terabyte storage

Challenge

dbh Logistics IT AG carries out business-critical tasks on behalf of its customers. These cover everything from customs clearance processes to providing shipping solutions and dealing with all of the formalities associated with importing and exporting goods through the ports. It also operates the Port Community System in Bremen, which in turn makes it responsible for the IT systems involved in the ports' operations. The Bremen-based service provider currently has 2,500 customers using its systems and runs a total of 650 virtual machines with high data volumes and enormous I/O loads. Were the systems ever to fail, these customers' commodity flows would grind to a halt. In the event of such a disaster, it would take a number of days to restore the systems using its previous IT solutions.

Solution

dbh decided to install two FUJITSU Storage ETERNUS DX200 devices, each with 100 terabytes of storage capacity, as a storage cluster. A transparent failover solution then ensures that even if individual components at a site were to fail, operations can restart immediately. "What really convinced us to go with the Fujitsu system was how cost-effective it was and that it gave us the option to employ a transparent failover solution through the storage cluster, without adding additional modules," says Rudolf Klassen, Head of IT Services at dbh Logistics IT AG. Klassen was the man who put the solution through its paces prior to the installation.

The system he had selected was assembled and tested using real data at the Fujitsu DemoCenter. It completely fulfilled his requirements, including managing 44,000 IOPS. "We then reassembled the system at our site and again tested a wide range of possible failure scenarios. The results convinced us that this was the right solution," explains Klassen. This success continued when the system was brought into active operation, achieving dbh's target performance levels. Klassen had had good experiences in the past with Fujitsu's service and system stability with other solutions in different areas, and this new storage system proved to be no exception.

Benefit

The most important benefit for dbh is the transparent failover solution as it ensures that operations can continue without interruption in the event of a failure. But even when the company does not need to access the reserve system, the new storage solution has plenty of other advantages to offer. These include the fact that it has made backups significantly faster. Backups that would previously have taken more than 20 hours to run can now be completed within an hour and a half. This acceleration also means that the company now has the option of using additional backup strategies such as remote data mirroring and snapshots.

Rudolf Klassen also notes the enormous financial benefits of the solution. He believes that it is good value for money, and that Fujitsu's hardware investment and service costs are both very attractive. Expandability was another important factor for the company. "With Fujitsu, we can purchase individual drives down the line and don't have to invest in complete shelves all at once. The company's product family concept also gives us the scalability we need without having to switch platforms," adds Klassen. The new concept allows dbh to grow more quickly, generate new business and add new customers to its platform whilst maintaining excellent levels of performance. The transparent failover solution enables the company to offer both its new and existing customers more attractive service level agreements.

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