Sparinvest

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**René Steen
Head of IT Operations
Sparinvest**

Sparinvest has deployed FUJITSU Server PRIMERGY systems and FUJITSU ETERNUS All-Flash storage to improve application performance, increase reliability and reduce energy costs.

At a glance
Country: Denmark
Industry: Financial Services
Founded: 1968
Website: sparinvest.dk

Challenge
Sparinvest's core server and storage infrastructure was five years old and out of warranty. It wanted to refresh this critical platform while also introducing All-Flash storage.

Solution
The company worked with local Fujitsu SELECT Expert partner Your-IT to evaluate the market and chose Fujitsu based on performance, cost and familiarity. It has since deployed 12 FUJITSU Server PRIMERGY RX2540 and one FUJITSU Storage ETERNUS AF650 All-Flash array to support 150 users in three locations.

Benefit
- Application response time is three times faster for improved productivity
- Storage energy consumption has reduced by 70 percent for lower running costs
- Easy scalability means the solution can grow with the company
- Lack of moving parts, such as fans, means there is less risk of failure and thus improved availability

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FUJITSU

Customer

Founded in Denmark in 1968, Sparinvest is an international asset management group based in Luxembourg and owned by a broad range of Danish institutional shareholders, who support its independence and prudent investment strategy. The Danish branch of Sparinvest handles the management and the administration of Danish-domiciled investors, and provides asset management and advisory services to professional investors.

Products and Services

- FUJITSU Server PRIMERGY RX2540
- FUJITSU Storage ETERNUS AF650

Refreshing critical legacy hardware

Sparinvest's legacy hardware platform was five years old and no longer covered by warranty. Performance was suffering and users were subject to regular database time-outs, affecting productivity. The company needed to refresh its core infrastructure and wanted to find the right partner to design a robust and scalable platform. It also wanted to introduce All-Flash storage in an effort to speed up performance.

"The old system had reached end of life and was simply too slow, which was a source of great frustration among users," explains René Steen, Head of IT Operations, Sparinvest. "We went to market with a good idea of the number of servers and storage we would need to cope with our significantly sized SQL databases."

Sparinvest worked with long term local Fujitsu SELECT Expert partner Your-IT to evaluate two competitive offerings based on criteria including storage speed, cost and manageability. Having been a Fujitsu customer for many years, the company was familiar with its technology, which helped give it the edge during the evaluation.

"We know how Fujitsu works and we know it is reliable. The Fujitsu proposal was also more cost-effective and included All-Flash storage, making it the ideal choice," adds René. "We then worked with Fujitsu and Your-IT to design the best server/storage configuration in terms of CPUs and RAM."

Building a new virtualized platform

The new solution consists of 12 FUJITSU Server PRIMERGY RX2540 units and one FUJITSU All-Flash storage ETERNUS AF650, supporting a virtualized environment for applications such as Oracle, MS Exchange, Navison and Qartal. 150 users in three locations now have seamless access to this business-critical software.

"We installed the new hardware in a couple of days and then migrated 60TB of data overnight and at weekends," continues René. "The old hardware, including Fujitsu ETERNUS storage, was then decommissioned and sold for reuse."

The FUJITSU Server PRIMERGY RX2540 is a 2U dual socket rack server for high usability, scalability and cost-efficiency. Its Intel® Xeon® scalable family processors, in conjunction with DDR4 memory technology, increase performance to meet Sparinvest's processing needs and enable seamless collaboration across the different locations. The modular design offers expandability of up to 28 disk drives, up to eight PCIe Gen3 expansion cards, and best-in-class energy efficiency thanks to two hot-plug power supplies.

The Fujitsu All-Flash storage system ETERNUS AF650 delivers leading storage performance and automated quality of service management to enable maximum system utilization and a fast ROI. It is the perfect solution for Sparinvest to consolidate its large-scale databases, business-critical applications and CRM.

Faster performance, lower costs

The new Fujitsu environment has boosted performance exponentially, meaning users no longer have to wait for sluggish systems to deliver the information they need. The SQL servers, for example, perform three times faster, improving productivity across the board.

"There are no more time-outs on requests and applications simply run more smoothly in general, which makes a real positive difference to our employees and their frustration levels," says René. "It also means we can provide a better service to our customers and operate more efficiently as a company."

The introduction of All-Flash storage technology is responsible for this transformation in application performance and brings a myriad of other benefits at the same time. Because there are no vibrational components such as fans or spinning disks, there is less risk of failure and thus improved availability. Furthermore, the ETERNUS AF650 uses far less energy, cutting Sparinvest's electricity bill by 70 percent.

"Fujitsu All-Flash storage is less expensive to run, more reliable and better performing – it really ticks all the boxes. It's also scalable so we can easily add more capacity in the case of acquisitions, for example," comments René. "Our in-house developers have been incredibly impressed by the new solution and find it very simple to work with."

With the server/storage infrastructure in place, Sparinvest is well positioned to handle future growth and, if there are ever any issues, it is safe in the knowledge that Fujitsu is only a phone call away. The next step in its journey is to deploy Fujitsu server management software to make day-to-day maintenance even easier.

"Fujitsu is a great partner to work with and it has helped us transform our approach to IT," concludes René. "We look forward to the continuing evolution of this critical part of our business."