



“The keyword for cooperation among Fujitsu, NetApp and SCHWARZ Computer Systeme is trust. We are genuine partners that respect one another and see the others as equals rather than just as client numbers.”

Franz Tretter
Head of IT
Augustiner-Bräu Wagner KG



Augustiner-Bräu prevents IT bottlenecks with Hybrid-Flash.

At a glance

Country: Germany
Industry: Brewery
Founded: 1328
Website: augustiner-braeu.de

Challenge

The famous Munich brewery has digitized its logistics and production business processes, and, as a result, its IT systems must be highly available and deliver very high performance. The brewery is easily meeting this challenge by updating its NetApp Hybrid-Flash storage systems.

Solution

NetApp MetroCluster Hybrid-Flash FAS8200, the FAS2554 backup system and ONTAP 9 accelerate and optimize production, logistics and administrative business processes at Augustiner. Fujitsu's suite of Professional Services guarantees the seamless running of all processes.

Benefit

- High performance, especially with SAP applications
- High availability and very good scalability
- Simple deployment, including Veeam software
- Quality of service
- Flexibility

The customer

In 1328, monks began to brew beer in their Augustinian monastery near the cathedral in Munich. The brewery was privatized almost 500 years later; in the late 19th century, it relocated to Landsberger Straße, where select raw materials from the region are still brewed today. The brewery makes its own malt in its malt house on the premises and draws its brewing water from its own well. Augustiner restaurants and beer gardens, among them the Augustiner-Keller and the Hirschgarten, offer the conviviality and comfort that have long been typical of Munich. Over the past seven centuries, Augustiner beer has become a part of Munich's culture. A success story that today involves 400 employees.

Products and services

- NetApp MetroCluster with FAS8200 (primary) and FAS2554 (Backup)
- SnapManager™ Software
- OnCommand® Unified Manager

Time for a system change

The role of the IT department at Augustiner-Bräu Wagner KG is to provide maximum support for the corporate strategy. To this end, a staff of nine IT experts has the task of optimizing the daily work of various user groups – in administration, logistics and production. Those responsible for a suitable IT environment at Augustiner have been supported by Fujitsu for many years. Fujitsu's extensive expertise made it the perfect partner to be brought on board, particularly for the scheduled technology update, including the complete customization of the infrastructure. The aim was to safeguard the availability of IT services, a crucial element in any smooth-running operation. After all, in a worst-case scenario, the failure of certain IT resources – for example, in logistics, where so much is digitized – can lead to shipments grinding to a halt. Furthermore, the systems need to be operating at maximum performance.

NetApp, Fujitsu and SCHWARZ Computer Systeme are all on board for the project – a triumvirate that Augustiner has turned to in the past. Until January 2017, the brewery had been using NetApp's MetroCluster, which replicated from the FAS3240 Hybrid-Flash storage system in the first data center to the second data center, and thus ensuring a high level of reliability. However, this wasn't enough for Franz Tretter, Head of IT at Augustiner: "Business processes need to be continually reviewed to determine how they can be simplified and improved." This consideration prompted the decision at the beginning of the new financial year in October 2016 to upgrade the technology, including switching the 7-Mode storage operation system to ONTAP.

Hybrid-Flash for faster processes

Implementation of the project began in early 2017. This involved replacing the controller heads, which had been in use for six years, and a number of shelves. To do this, the old shelves were first connected to the existing MetroCluster in order to release newer ones for the installation. The installation was then performed on a 8040 MCC basis. This task was performed by the Fujitsu and SCHWARZ Computer Systeme integrators while the systems were up and running. The installation went smoothly, and no live production systems failed during the migration. Fujitsu and SCHWARZ Computer Systeme completed the implementation of the storage systems on schedule in February. ONTAP 9, the current version of the ONTAP data management system, now runs on these storage systems.



Since then, Augustiner has been using the FAS8200 and FAS2554 Hybrid-Flash systems. The new solution is a Hybrid-Flash storage system, which was installed as a MetroCluster. The FAS2554 backup system, also a Hybrid-Flash storage system, stores the mirrored data in the second data center. The integrated backup system uses NetApp's proven snapshot technology. This means that the data is backed up independently of the application and is performance-neutral in terms of the live system.

It was easy to integrate the solution into the storage architecture; the Veeam solutions operate seamlessly – like so many other things. Looking back, it is clear to the Head of IT why the project ran so perfectly: "We have been working with NetApp, Fujitsu and SCHWARZ Computer Systeme for a very long time. The relationship is based on trust, which has built up steadily over 15, 20 years, and this trust has never been betrayed by any of the partners." He stresses: "Everyone is open and honest with one another. This has led to good cooperation, something that I value highly."

Fast SAP and motivated users

At Augustiner, SAP applications also have to manage a rapidly growing database – within one year, data levels were in the three-digit Gigabyte range. Flash technology adapts to the growth, keeps access speeds stable and delivers response times that Head of IT Franz Tretter describes as "phenomenal". He elaborates: "I don't see any extreme improvement in performance in the apps. They perform quickly and effectively. But the new Hybrid-Flash storage system has a significant impact on the performance of our live SAP system." Booting up is accelerated by a factor of 15. Because production is linked to the SAP system, this results in a huge time gain.

With ONTAP 9, the brewery has a flexible, efficient, and, above all, investment-proof storage solution, which can be adapted to future requirements and, for example, fulfills all the conditions needed to implement SAP HANA® quickly – a consideration that Tretter's team will need to address in the future and a solution for which the partnership of Fujitsu and NetApp has proven itself.

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