Case Study
LKC Group

»Fujitsu’s blade servers and storage systems allowed us to boost performance by up to 40% and significantly increase our security standards. As auditors, tax advisers and lawyers, we have a great deal of responsibility with regard to data security and availability, particularly in terms of professional guidelines«

Robert M. Beck, Auditor, Tax Advisor and Partner at LKC Group
Peter Jordan, IT Risk Manager and Partner at LKC Group

The customer
LKC is made up of a network of eleven partner offices (mostly in Bavaria and Berlin) with a total of 250 employees and headquarters in Gruenwald near Munich. LKC helps clients of all sizes – including foundations and municipalities – with all auditing, tax advice and legal matters. In particular, LKC also offers auditing and advisory services relating to IT risk management, IT system checks and process assessment. The company also has highly qualified specialists in special auditing and transactions. The LKC Group is a member of HLB International, a global network of independent auditing companies, tax advisers and business advisers.

The challenge
Previously, the heterogeneous IT infrastructure in the eleven locations had no standardized Group-wide data security concept. This meant that data was saved or secured locally. In addition, server capacities were reaching their limits in the first configuration level of the LKC data center. This is the site of central applications, such as DATEV, that all LKC employees can access. “We also wanted to enhance data security and increase data availability,” explains Peter Jordan, IT Risk Manager and Partner at the LKC Group. “Rather than running our IT operations ourselves, we wanted to outsource them to a competent IT partner.”

The solution
ITM GmbH, a Fujitsu SELECT Partner based in Munich and Rosenheim, developed a concept for the LKC Group that includes both centralized data security and failover measures. The new backup solution follows the “backup to disk to tape” principle. Both storage systems and a tape library from Fujitsu were used. The previous servers have also been replaced by Fujitsu systems. The data center, which is divided into three fire zones, is situated on the LKC premises but is operated by ITM GmbH via remote tools.

The benefit
The LKC Group combines its advisory services and annual audits for its clients with analyses of IT structures and IT-supported business processes. These also encompass security and reliability, compliance and company stock reliability. A tried-and-tested concept is used to systematically scrutinize potential business risks and the measures taken by the company.
The benefit

- Central and standardized backup management for all LKC locations
- Increased performance for all applications
- Greater operational security and availability
- High scalability
- Lower energy costs thanks to economical systems

Products and services

- Servers: 2 x FUJITSU Server PRIMERGY BX400S1, 1 x FUJITSU Server PRIMERGY RX300, 2 x FUJITSU Server PRIMERGY RX200
- Storage systems: 2 x FUJITSU Storage ETERNUS DX90 S2
- Tape library: 1 x FUJITSU Storage ETERNUS LT40 with LTO5
- Storage virtualization: DataCore SANsymphony-V
- Server virtualization: VMware vSphere
- Services: Maintenance & Support via ITM GmbH (Rosenheim, Munich), a Fujitsu SELECT Partner

For Robert M. Beck and the Group’s 250 other employees, this step towards a more modern data center has paid off. “All applications in the central data center, which we access from the branches, are now between 30% and 40% quicker. And the DATEV solutions have seen a 10% rise in performance.”

System stability has also increased significantly. The storage systems are mirrored via DataCore. Should a failure occur, an automated failover process will intervene. The blade servers are also safeguarded by their twins. In the event of a failure, individual virtual machines can be started from the backup in just a few minutes.

Conclusion

The rise in data security has been a real ‘Service-Plus’ to the LKC Group because, with a central and professional data center and an appropriate access authorization concept, its clients’ data is stored more securely than at the individual offices. ITM GmbH moved over to the new system in just one weekend and without a hitch. Overall, it will now cost less to expand and develop LKC’s IT operations than before, thanks to the centralized storage and applications and the easily scalable Fujitsu systems. The next item on the agenda is to introduce a central document management system for all eleven LKC locations. LKC partners Robert M. Beck and Peter Jordan are extremely satisfied with the results:

“In ITM GmbH, we have found a suitable technology partner who has successfully developed our IT infrastructure. Using reliable Fujitsu systems has also ensured a high standard of quality and security for both us and our clients.”

© 2014 Fujitsu and the Fujitsu logo are trademarks or registered trademarks of Fujitsu Limited in Japan and other countries. Other company, product and service names may be trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective owners. Technical data subject to modification and delivery subject to availability. Any liability that the data and illustrations are complete, actual or correct is excluded. Designations may be trademarks and/or copyrights of the respective manufacturer, the use of which by third parties for their own purposes may infringe the rights of such owner.