

Case Study

Autodesk GmbH

»Our close and trusting relationship with Fujitsu is based on many years of joint projects, and is characterized by our mutual focus on solutions and success«

Dr. Jakob Bärz, Development Manager, Autodesk GmbH



The customer

The American software company Autodesk develops computer aided design (CAD) and computer animation software for digital 2D and 3D design in the fields of architecture, building services engineering, above and below ground construction, the automotive and transport sector, mechanics and machine building, media and entertainment and logistics and telecommunications. Customers in the above sectors use Autodesk's technology to create digital models and processes to visualize, simulate and analyze their projects. It allows them to test and optimize their ideas and concepts under realistic conditions, before investing time and money into the implementation. At its development site in Darmstadt, Germany, the company mainly uses its VRED software to develop for the automotive design sector.

The customer

Country: Germany
 Industry: Mechanical design CAD
 Founded: 1982
 Employees: 6,800 worldwide
 Website: www.autodesk.de



The challenge

Expansion of software development capabilities and construction of an on site demo center.

The solution

Conversion from CAD workstations to a PRIMEFLEX for HPC cluster solution from Fujitsu.

The challenge

Autodesk was looking for a solution that would allow it to further expand its software development capabilities and create an internal demo center. The company wanted to focus on adjusting the hardware to suit the powerful software so that it could test rendering processes under fully realistic light conditions. The software and hardware were not only required for in-house development, but also needed to be made usable for in-house demo events and trade fairs to strengthen the company's sales and marketing activities. The workstations were insufficient for the requirements of the visualization software and restricted the processing of large image files. A lack of space for additional storage and processors meant that any expansion of the workstations would be limited and would not allow for more intensive use and efficient development of the software. The hardware had reached its limits, and the company needed the scalability of a cluster solution for testing and development of its own solutions.

The solution

Autodesk had recently loaned a PRIMEFLEX for HPC cluster solution from Fujitsu to use at a demo event at a large automotive manufacturer and had a very good experience with it, particularly with the excellent service and support provided by Fujitsu. The option of using the Fujitsu's internal Benchmark Center in Paderborn for a test run also proved to be an excellent strategic approach. Following the proof of concept, Autodesk ordered a PRIMEFLEX for HPC cluster solution from Fujitsu in a special water-cooled rack for its development and demo center. The integration and rollout were implemented and managed by the HPC SELECT Expert Partner, CSW Customer-Service Wilhelm GmbH & Co. KG. The constant customer and solution-focused contact with CSW was the cherry on top of the solution and was a decisive factor in building customer loyalty.

The benefit

- Developments to design and visualization solutions for the automotive sector can be tested with higher performance levels
- Professional visualization allows for real-time testing of changes to the design, such as using different materials or changing light conditions
- The software's full range of features can be utilized at demonstrations and trade fairs thanks to higher computing power
- Strategically important customer presentations can be carried out in-house

Products and services

- FUJITSU Server PRIMERGY, integration services; infrastructure rollout, HW service packs / contracts, SW service packs / contracts
- 32 x FUJITSU Server PRIMERGY CX250 compute nodes
- 2 x FUJITSU Server PRIMERGY RX300
- InfiniBand switch
- Brocade® FastIron® WS648G

The benefit

With the new PRIMEFLEX for HPC cluster solution from Fujitsu, Autodesk has the right hardware to further expand its software development for scalable solutions and to make it more efficient. The development department can access the high performance of the HPC cluster and the fully utilize all of the features available with the VRED visualization software. The PRIMEFLEX for HPC cluster solution also offers improved scalability and flexible applications for the employees. Alongside the nine colleagues on site, employees at a further ten locations access the HPC cluster remotely. The new hardware increases the efficiency of the visualization solutions dramatically, decreases visualization times significantly and makes the entire working process much more efficient.

The cooperation with CSW Customer-Service Wilhelm GmbH & Co. KG for planning, organization and implementation was also a great advantage. As a certified Autodesk software partner, the CSW employees were able to install the software and test it on the new hardware under real conditions. From conception to commissioning to the final test runs, CSW looked after everything and became a central point of contact for questions on financing, consultations with financial partners and certification processes. Due to this, Autodesk received a completely hassle-free package, and intends to continue working with Fujitsu over the next five years.

Conclusion

Using the PRIMEFLEX for HPC cluster solution from Fujitsu gives Autodesk a stable, reliable system with excellent scalability. This means that Autodesk's customers have access to high performance processing of a range of data for 3D visualizations in the field of automotive design. CSW's contribution to the integration of the PRIMEFLEX for HPC cluster solution has helped to create a lasting, trusting relationship between the companies.

"The quality and service we received from Fujitsu and its partner CSW really impressed us, right from the start of the project. From our work together in the past, we have created a good network and know our partners well."

Dr. Jakob Bärz, Development Manager, Autodesk GmbH

In collaboration with



Contact

FUJITSU
Phone: +44 (0) 870 242 7998
E-Mail: cic@ts.fujitsu.com
Website: www.fujitsu.com/de
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