Customer Success Story

Hardware consolidation with high-level availability solutions for Overlack AG

K & P COMPUTER®
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Higher levels of performance and lower operating costs as a result of IT modernization

The Overlack Group was founded in 1922, and today it holds a prime position within the European chemical distribution market. The family-owned business has locations based in 17 countries and has grown steadily and at above average levels over recent years, meaning it is now one of the top five companies in Germany and Eastern Europe.

The challenge

Overlack AG has decided to appoint K&P Computer after having provided a series of lease returns to help consolidate disk space and the server, and to help design one solution for their data server, which itself provides one high-availability solution spread across two data centres. Prior to this there were data servers provided by IBM and HP which were 3-6 years old, in addition to a storage unit capable of handling 30 TB of hard drive space and OS/400, and which could run on Windows and VM-ware operating systems.

The solution

In order to ensure a high availability environment, a new IBM Power7+ machine, which will be capable of running on the OS/400 in the future, was purchased following a recommendation made by K&P Computer. The Power7 machine which is already in place can be migrated as a backup for the second data centre, whereas its original IBM disk storage was leased and was replaced by the IBM V3700 version. Therefore, it is possible for an IBM SVC to operate on OS/400 LPAR either inside the first or the second data centre. This in turn provides maximum levels of reliability.

An additional V3700 storage unit is located in the second data centre and therefore provides the subsequent model for high levels of storage availability. An IBM Pure Flex System including six computer nodes, 10GBit Ethernet and 16GBit SAN switches were all installed for the VMware environment.

The HP blade centre has been migrated into the second data centre. The data stored in both data centres is mirrored synchronously via the IBM SAN Volume Controller which has been installed. This allows for a transparent backup in the event of any errors.

Every single component can be networked by using two new and two existing SAN switches.

The competitive edge

Overlack now finds itself making real inroads thanks to the high availability solution which it has acquired in recent times. Failure can be ruled out because of the redundant construction of two data centres and networking capabilities. Greater computing power ensures rapid working speed can be generated by clients and also makes an active contribution meaning that Overlack can focus exclusively on its own core business.

„We are convinced by both the smooth design work as well as the correct implementation.
The IT environment was adapted entirely to our needs
and this also helps us in maximising our core process even further."

Thomas Janssen, Head of IT, Overlack AG

Since 1985, K&P Computer has offered its customers consulting, maintenance and support services for IT systems. By pursuing a consistent business strategy, the company has steadily built up its market position, with a rising annual growth rate that is well above average.

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