

Dutch local authority reduces IT management by 25 per cent with virtual solution

CONSOLIDATION	■
DATABASE	■
HPCC/CLUSTERING	■
MANAGEMENT	■
MESSAGING	■
MIGRATION	■
BACKUP RECOVERY & ARCHIVE	■
VIRTUALISATION	■



COMPANY: DEELGEMEENTE IJSSELMONDE
INDUSTRY: GOVERNMENT
FOUNDED: 2007
EMPLOYEES: 100

CHALLENGE

Deelgemeente IJsselmonde was creating a server sprawl by adding a new server to run each new application. It needed to consolidate its server environment and find a trusted supplier that would provide optimum services.

SOLUTION

Deelgemeente IJsselmonde used Dell™ as a single point of contact to implement a virtual server environment that runs on Dell™ PowerEdge™ servers. A storage solution also provides a back up system that enables faster recovery during the day.

BENEFITS

- IT employees save 25 per cent of their time managing equipment
- Virtual solution reduces the number of physical servers required by 50 per cent
- The IT team can now quickly prioritise department needs while maximising server resources
- The Dell pay-as-you-grow scalable enterprise model helps the IT department control its computing costs

Local government authorities are often under pressure to deliver high-quality services while operating under strict budgets. They continually seek new technology that will help reduce the total cost of ownership through management savings, yet still promote maximum uptime of mission-critical applications.

Deelgemeente IJsselmonde is a local authority of Rotterdam in the Netherlands. It helps deliver key community services for its surrounding population. Ronald Duifs, Head of IT, Deelgemeente IJsselmonde, says: "Every three years we review our IT infrastructure. However, we'd got to the stage where we were accumulating more and more servers because every new application needed a new server. We had to find a way to reduce the number of servers without losing any applications."

Deelgemeente IJsselmonde had bought its legacy equipment through a retailer, and the quality of service had decreased over time. For its critical servers they had a four-hour response contract, but when its last issue arose it took three days for support to come. Duifs says: "This triggered us to find one single point of contact, that we could rely on to provide the services we needed." Its IT team also wanted to lower its total cost of ownership, extend its server line, develop a clear lifecycle roadmap strategy and gain the freedom to expand internally.

Dell™ had already delivered Deelgemeente IJsselmonde's desktops, and when it heard of the new server environment challenges facing the department it proposed running powerful virtual system to help server consolidation. "We had dealt with Dell for our client infrastructure, and our experience had always been good, so, after a short period of testing, we chose to implement a Dell™ solution.

Virtualisation halves number of physical servers and doubles capacity

Deelgemeente IJsselmonde replaced its eight legacy servers with just four Dell™ PowerEdge™ 2950 servers. This is due to





HOW IT WORKS

Hardware:

- Dell™ PowerEdge™ 2950 servers
- Dell | EMC CX 3-20 storage area network (SAN)

Software:

- Dell™ OpenManage™ 5.1
- VMware Infrastructure Enterprise 3.01
- Microsoft® Office 2003
- Symantec Back up Exec™ 10d

Services:

- Infrastructure Consulting Services (ICS)
- Gold Enterprise Support

“Dell™ has provided us with great consultancy services plus a very resilient solution. And, what’s more, we’ve doubled our computing capacity while halving our server footprint.”

– **Ronald Duifs**, Head of IT, Deelgemeente IJsselmonde

virtualisation software VMware, which allows it to run multiple applications independently on one physical server.

Dell and VMware have a strong working alliance, and through this relationship, they have tested and certified VMware software to run on Dell™ PowerEdge™ servers and Dell | EMC storage. This brings even greater choice and flexibility for the growing IT needs of Deelgemeente IJsselmonde.

This solution was implemented after a successful two-week testing phase on-site. The Dell™ PowerEdge™ 2950 servers feature Quad-core Intel® Xeon™ processors, to deliver powerful running of Microsoft® Office 2003, plus many other specific finance and reporting applications.

Virtualisation allows maximum business continuity, because if a hardware failure occurs, VMware 3.01 goes into maintenance mode, and applications running on a virtual server automatically go to another working server to stay up and running. Dell™ OpenManage™ is a proactive system manager that is integrated with VMware 3.01. This helps simplify and automate the administration of the new technology resources – so the IT team can monitor any of these issues closely and gain greater control over the department’s IT investment.

Duifs says: “Dell™ has provided us with great consultancy services plus a very resilient solution. And, what’s more, we’ve doubled our computing capacity while halving our server footprint.”

IT department spends 25 per cent less time managing servers

The IT team can now quickly move workloads from one virtual workspace to another. This helps them to easily prioritise department needs while maximising server resources. Duifs says: “The implementation of VMware 3.01 with Dell expertise has reduced the time we need to spend managing our servers by 25 per cent.”

Dell | EMC CX 300 storage area network (SAN) is a cost-effective, rack-dense storage system. It provides up to 27 terabytes of storage and offers pay-as-you-grow scalability. It’s an excellent consolidation solution for the department’s multiple applications.

Dell also recommended a backup, recovery and archiving (BURA) solution, which Deelgemeente IJsselmonde didn’t have before. By using Symantec Back up Exec™ data is saved first to hard disk and then written to tapes, which are taken to another location. “The disks are very handy to have, and give us a much faster recovery system during the day if an issue arises.”

Future expansion now much easier with greater flexibility

Flexibility in the allocation of computing capacity allows the consolidation of applications and servers. The Dell pay-as-you-grow scalable enterprise model helps Deelgemeente IJsselmonde control computing costs.

Duifs says: “We definitely have enough scalability for the next few years. Dell is a reliable partner, and that’s why we wanted to do this project with them. It’s provided a combination of good pre-sales consultancy, technology, and good support and help us run the applications our 100 users rely on.”

Microsoft



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