

Dell Success story

Desktop Notebook Workstation **Server/Storage** Service



Uelzena eG

Higher performance, lower costs

Uelzena eG migrated its SAP R/3 solution from Unix to Windows® 2000 running on Dell™ PowerEdge™ servers – improving performance by a factor of five and halving maintenance costs at a stroke.

It's the million-dollar question – how can businesses reduce TCO while improving performance? Simple: migrate from a proprietary Unix platform to an Intel-based Windows platform, for example.

Take the case of the Uelzena eG group in Uelzen, Lower Saxony. As Bernd Täger, the group's IT manager, explains, migrating their SAP R/3 ERP solution from Unix to Microsoft® Windows® 2000 led to a fivefold performance increase – cutting operating costs in half at the same time.

The Uelzena eG group, which employs about 500 people and has a yearly turnover of over 250 million Euros, manufactures innovative dry and semi-finished products for the food industry, as well as butterfat for the baking and confectionary industries, at its site in Uelzen. The dairy Altmark-Käserei Uelzena GmbH produces butter and cheese. The company Schoppe & Schultz GmbH & Co in Ratzeburg manufactures premium drinking chocolate as well as instant coffee and chocolate drinks.



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According to Täger, the reason for the migration was that “the bills were far too high” for the legacy, proprietary Unix midrange system. The cost of upgrades was simply “exorbitant”. Täger also complains about “a lack of transparent pricing”. There were no catalogues or websites where customers could look up prices for items such as hard drives. Even the resellers could only give estimates, and the price often went up after the new components had been installed.

There's no such problem with the new SAP R/3 solution, which runs on Dell PowerEdge servers: it's easy to pull up prices for each individual component on Dell's website. What's more, adds Täger, the standard components of the Dell systems cost “at the very most a few hundred Euros”, as opposed to “several thousand” for the legacy solution.

The migration to the new platform was carried out by the Hanover-based IT services and consultancy company PSH IT Projekte Systeme Hosting

Ltd. (PSH). Since 1998 PSH has successfully carried out numerous migration projects for SME customers in industries as varied as banking and insurance, services, manufacturing technology, machine building and plant engineering, tourism, transport and logistics. These projects are usually complemented by SAP system maintenance supported by guaranteed service levels, all provided by PSH.

The migration project was successfully completed in the space of only three months. SAP R/3 now runs on three Dell PowerEdge 4600 servers, one each for development, consolidation and production. On the development machine, Uelzena creates custom SAP applications. More than enough processing power is provided by dual 2.8 GHz Intel® Xeon™ CPUs with 512 KB L2 Cache, 2 GB of memory and three 36 GB hard drives.

The consolidation server is used for quality assurance and testing of SAP applications. The third PowerEdge serves as the SAP production machine. Because the application is strategically important for Uelzena eG, this server needs to be up 24 hours a day, running the SAP R/3 modules MM, SD, PP, FI, CO, QM, PM and HR. Both these systems are equipped with four 1.9 GHz Intel® Xeon™ processors with 1 MB L3 cache, 4 GB memory and three 36 GB hard drives.

The need for external data storage is met by connecting all three servers to Dell | EMC CX600 storage arrays. The SAP R/3 systems are hosted by PSH in an audit-proof data centre in Hanover which conforms to all the latest security requirements and uses predominantly Dell PowerEdge servers. A VPN link via 1 Megabit DSL allows over 100 Uelzena users at several sites to connect to the data centre. This service is also provided and maintained by PSH.

The Dell based SAP system is so powerful that Uelzena was able to upgrade seamlessly to the new SAP R/3 Release 4.7EE. As Täger points out, a project like this would have stretched the old Unix system to its limits.

Thanks to PSH and Dell's joint migration and release change project, Uelzena was so satisfied with Dell that they are now using Dell servers themselves, implementing a total of twelve PowerEdge systems to run their file, web, firewall, mail and back office servers. Once again, Täger is full of praise for the good advice, speedy delivery, good allround service and the fantastic value provided by Dell.

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