Case Study

We make sure

FUJITSU COMPUTERS SIEMENS

Economical high-availability IT solution wins out

Borussia Mönchengladbach sets up a controlled server offensive with x10sure

» x10sure from Fujitsu Siemens Computers will help put us in the Champions League. Of course, IT doesn't score goals. But it does provide the basis for our future growth. «

Frank Fleissgarten, IT Manager, Borussia VfL 1900 Mönchengladbach GmbH

→ The challenge

Departure from conventional "cluster" configuration – a more economical approach to high availability than the usual 1:1 coverage of productive systems
IT infrastructure modernization – consolidation of the existing server landscape to permit easy integration of new systems and services into a high-availability system
Preparation for future growth – to increase the level of automation of IT-supported business processes and build in scalability

Borussia VfL Mönchengladbach – five-time German League champion, three-time DFB Cup winner and two-time UEFA Cup holder – has a long tradition and an impressive collection of national and international trophies. In mid-2004, the club left its legendary Bökelberg location for a new stadium in BORUSSIA-PARK. This modern football facility, which features a fan shop as well as a sports bar and VIP lounges, can accommodate some 54,000 fans. More at: **www.borussia.de**

→ The solution

Borussia VfL Mönchengladbach has a good lineup – with first-rate players on the pitch and servers from Fujitsu Siemens Computers in its BORUSSIA-PARK data center. Borussia VfL 1900 Mönchengladbach GmbH needs a high-performance IT infrastructure to permit efficient, economical operation of the club's website and support its online ticketing and merchandising activities. Prior to the **introduction of the x10sure high-availability solution** from Fujitsu Siemens Computers, the IT department had a separate backup server for each productive server. That meant 50% of the club's service capacity was likely to be unused at any given time. The new core infrastructure with x10sure and VMware protects the real and virtual servers and will give Borussia a stable and reliable foundation for successful performance and future growth.

→ Solution components

- Core components of the new IT infrastructure: x10sure and VMware
- Server landscape in the BORUSSIA-PARK data center: 37 systems from Fujitsu Siemens Computers
- Software: e.g., Exchange Server, Microsoft Dynamics Navision, Biz Talk Server, SQL Server, Web Server, Commerce Server, ISA Server, Citrix Server Farm, NAS Server, Facsimile Server, Print Server, AD Server, File Server

→ Customer benefits

- High-performance IT infrastructure with near-100% high-availability guarantee
- Total protection for real and virtual servers
- Potential for savings of up to 50% on future hardware and software investments
- Simple operation with minimum risk exposure
- Economical scalability for optimum investment protection

→ The project

Professional football is a growth market. The FIFA World Cup Germany 2006 attracted thousands of new fans, and clubs have built ultra-modern stadiums. The BORUSSIA-PARK, the home stadium of Borussia VfL Mönchengladbach, is a good example. This new facility features everything a modern football club needs to succeed on the pitch and under the bottom line – a training center, football school, business seats, VIP lounges, catering facilities, a fan shop and ticket center as well as offices for management and all other departments that make up a business. The driving force behind all this activity is Borussia VfL 1900 Mönchengladbach GmbH with some 90 employees. The client uses Microsoft Dynamics Navision for most of its business processes. In late 2007, the IT team headed by Frank Fleissgarten launched a future-oriented consolidation project. The goal was to excel off as well as on the playing field by staking out an equally strong position in the competition for fans and sponsors at the European level. After all, with their structure, professional approach to marketing and record revenues, clubs such as Manchester United and Real Madrid have raised the bar in the world of professional football. That explains why Borussia wanted to be able to build its future as a football club and business on a stable and reliable IT base. IT management came to the conclusion that a core infrastructure consisting of x10sure and VMware from Fujitsu Siemens Computers would offer the desired reliability and dynamic momentum. When implementation of the new x10sure solution is completed in 2009, Borussia will be poised to meet the challenges that come with an exploding membership, for example, by deploying new customer loyalty concepts based on the integration of new Web services.

→ A record of success

For Frank Fleissgarten, the IT manager of Borussia VfL 1900 Mönchengladbach GmbH, x10sure gives his club a custom solution: "The cost-benefit analysis showed that x10sure and VMware ESX combine to make up the best concept for SMEs. Guaranteed outage protection of 99.95% makes us very satisfied." The customer also liked the fact that it takes only five minutes to get started again in the event of a major incident, since x10sure features automated monitoring and rebooting functionality to keep systems up and running. The use of the n:1 protection concept provides an enormous gain in dynamic performance and will permit savings of up to 50% on future hardware and software expenditure. For Borussia's Frank Fleissgarten, the new dynamic data center is a winning proposition: "With our IT systems and protection, the BORUSSIA-PARK has become a reference facility with a reputation that extends beyond the borders of Germany."

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