

SPAR relies on a comprehensive storage solution from HP



“The performance data of the products and above all the comprehensive support are what persuaded us to go with HP. The step-by-step migration of the individual components was a great challenge for all, but it was mastered superbly.” Dr. Georg Oberdammer, head of the department of technology and development, SPAR

Objective:

Protection against failure is a major concern at SPAR – for supplying about 1,600 Austrian markets with groceries and other retail goods as well as for IT. Having important, business-critical data and applications available at all times is the basis for the success of the business.

Approach:

- The core of the new storage network in each case is a new HP StorageWorks XP12000 Disk Array.

IT improvements:

- Increased performance.
- Greater support.
- Up-to-date environment for our storage area network.

Business benefits:

- Enhanced confidence in HP technology and services.
- Greater continuity support services.
- High availability and Business protection.

SPAR Österreichische Warenhandels-AG is a 100 per cent privately owned Austrian corporation. The core business of SPAR in Austria is wholesale and retail groceries and non-grocery daily consumables. SPAR had €3.94 billion in sales in Austria, and is one of the largest companies in the country and an important driver of the domestic economy.

Business Continuity is a major concern at SPAR – for supplying about 1,600 Austrian markets with groceries and other retail goods as well as for IT. Having important, business-critical data and applications available at all times is the basis for the success of the business.

In the past, the retail group relied on the HP Business Recovery Service, which in an emergency would deliver an entire HP replacement computing centre in a container within a day. Now at the headquarters and in the second, permanently installed emergency computing centre, SPAR relies on two future-secure storage systems as well as on new switches in the storage area network (SAN) – and these are also from HP.

“Our data volume is growing by about 50 per cent per year. To be equipped for the future and handle the flood of data with optimal efficiency, modernisation and expansion of the storage environment were desperately needed,” explains Dr. Georg Oberdammer, head of the department of technology and development at SPAR. The new computing centre in Marchtrenk, which is 147 kilometers from the main computing center in Salzburg, makes this very easy.

The core of the new storage network in each case is a new HP StorageWorks XP12000 Disk Array with 35 and 38 terabyte capacity respectively at each of the two locations, which are linked to one another with four 2 Gbit glass fiber lines. “All production data is stored on disk and on tape in the new

Customer solution at a glance

Primary hardware

- HP StorageWorks XP12000 Disk Array
- 2 x 4-Gbit Brocade 24000 SAN switches with a total of 256 ports

Primary software

- HP OpenView
- HP Data Protector

computing centre. If the main computing centre fails, we can simply switch to the alternate computing centre," says Dr. Oberdammer, describing the advantages of the new SAN.

Failure security is a key point at the top of SPAR's priority list. In 2005, the company group experienced for itself what happens when a computing centre fails during the flooding in Wörgl. The fact that this case in the subsidiary got off with only minor damage was due to considerable joint efforts of all SPAR departments – from IT to purchasing to logistics. Dr. Oberdammer explains: "A complete failure in the main computing centre is something we can not afford under any circumstances." The technology manager prefers not to think about the consequences: missed deliveries, empty shelves in the stores, huge financial losses and dissatisfied customers.

Single source: HP as a general contractor

HP as the general contractor for the SAN implementation ensured that SPAR need not fear this scenario. "The requirements for this comprehensive project, involving both technology and schedule, were extremely high. Their reliance on HP for this confirmed the confidence of SPAR in the quality of

our team, our services and our technologies," explains Markus Dallinger, account manager for HP Austria.

HP implemented the project from specific planning of the systems to the migration in close collaboration with Dr. Oberdammer and his team. Furthermore, HP is responsible for high availability through a special "mission critical" partnership service. Beside the storage components, the solution included two 4-Gbit Brocade 24000 SAN switches with a total of 256 ports and the migration of the old SAN components to the new environment as well as software expansions and licenses of HP OpenView for IT management and HP Data Protector for backup.

SPAR is ready for the future

"The performance data of the products and above all the comprehensive support are what persuaded us to go with HP. The step-by-step migration of the individual components provided a great challenge for all, but it was mastered superbly," says Dr. Oberdammer, describing his experiences. "Now we have an up-to-date environment for our storage area network, which equips us to handle any eventualities in the years to come."

To learn more, visit www.hp.com

© 2007 Hewlett-Packard Development Company, L.P. The information contained herein is subject to change without notice. The only warranties for HP products and services are set forth in the express warranty statements accompanying such products and services. Nothing herein should be construed as constituting an additional warranty. HP shall not be liable for technical or editorial errors or omissions contained herein.

