



Energie AG: Infrastructure Harmonization

The customer

Energie AG Oberösterreich is a leading European infrastructure company having specialised business units and subsidiaries both at home and abroad and operating in the energy, water and waste disposal commercial sectors. The company is based in Linz and supplies Austria, Southern Germany, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia.

The challenge

The relocation of Energie AG provided the opportunity for the creation of a virtual infrastructure. The new building offered significantly less space for the installation of a computer centre than had been available in the old premises. The relocation had to be done quickly, since cost obviously played a decisive role.

S&T Austria worked together with Energie AG, therefore, to help evaluate possible alternatives to the direct physical transportation of the computer from one location to the other. After detailed cost comparison, it was decided that the major part of the original server landscape could be migrated into a virtual infrastructure onto a VMware-Basis.

The project

Energie AG began the virtualisation project with the initial connection of two HP computers to the ESX Server 2.5. The VMware P2V Assistant helped with the relocating of the physical system into virtual machines on the ESX server.

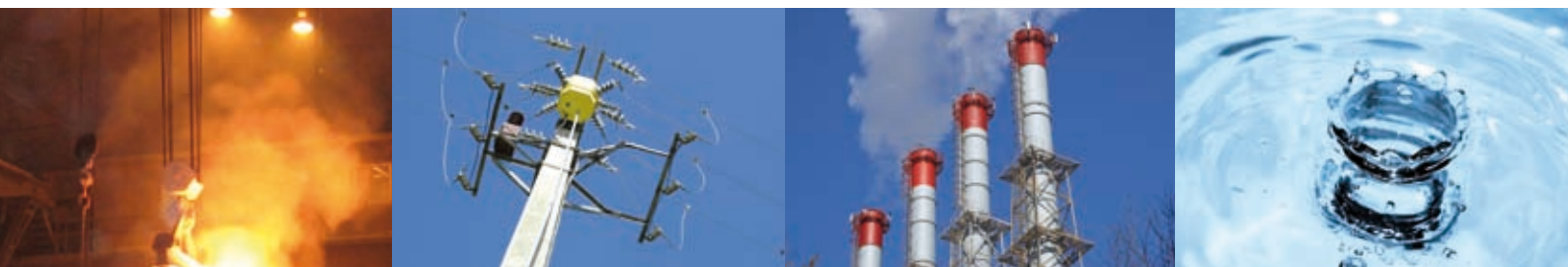
This tool facilitated the rapid and reliable migration from physical to virtual machines. Complex configurations including applications were integrated into a virtual infrastructure. Automatic transfer not only saved time, but also made the transfer more reliable.

In the second phase, the virtual infrastructure was extended to four HP ProLiant servers, each with eight Intel processors under an ESX server and two physical computers at the split locations. All the systems are linked through an EMC Symetrix SAN. The regular transfer of data into the storage system heightens fault tolerance and guarantees increased service availability. Under normal conditions of operation, computing capacity is shared equally between the physical systems through load balancing. Where necessary, VMware Virtual SMP allows a virtual machine to have additional physical processors available.

During equipment maintenance or in the event of equipment failure, virtual machines can be transferred in the shortest time from the affected hardware to a back-up physical machine. Thanks to the installation of the VMware Virtual Centre with VMotion, this can even be carried out during operation without the user noticing any shift in the virtual machine.

Benefit to the customer

- savings on the cost of hardware, on space and on power requirements
- centralised monitoring of all virtual machines
- new system commissioned as a „turn-key“ solution



“Energie AG and in particular its IT function have become trendsetters in the sector. IT is a business enabler and is seen as an obvious critical factor in the performance of Energie AG.”

Juergen Kehl, project leader, Energie AG Computer Centre manager
Gerhard Ratzenboeck, project and technology initiator, IT Services, Energie AG

S&T DACH

With around 800 employees, S&T DACH is one of the largest providers of IT consulting, solutions and services in German-speaking Europe. Bringing S&T Austria together with German, Austrian and Swiss sections of the former IMG concern, which was taken over by S&T in early 2007, to form a single organization bundles the strengths of both parts of the company. S&T DACH is targeting upper mid-sized customers in Germany, Austria and Switzerland, presenting itself as a one-stop IT shop. From management consulting and the optimization of sector-specific business processes based mainly on SAP through to operation and infrastructure optimization, S&T DACH covers the whole spectrum of IT services. S&T DACH is a part of the S&T Group, which, with around 3,100 employees in 22 countries and annual sales in 2007 of 522,2 million Euro, is the leading provider of IT consultancy, solutions and services for customers in Central and Eastern Europe, in the Germany-Austria-Switzerland (DACH) region and in China and Japan.

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