

Objective

Improve management of HPE x86 blade server infrastructure

Approach

Needed a single, integrated management platform to streamline the management of over 1,600 virtual servers and 133 servers

IT Matters

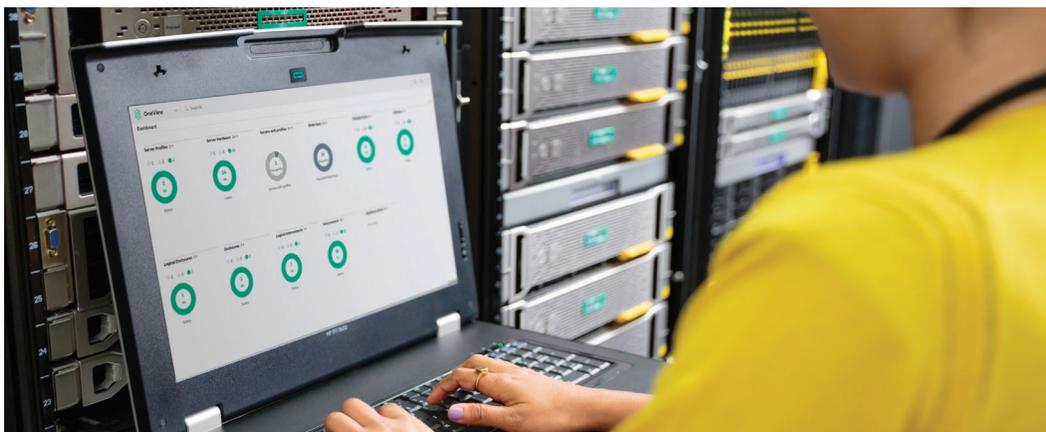
- Reduces new configuration deployment times by 90%
- Cuts administrator and engineer management time by 50%
- Speeds up the detection of routine problems by 50%

Business Matters

- Improves system availability by 30% to ensure the delivery of business-critical applications
- Frees IT staff from routine tasks; enabling them to react more quickly to business requirements and work on customer service improvements
- Supports Porsche Informatik's commitment to shaping digitalization of the automobile industry

Porsche Informatik accelerates system management performance

HPE OneView increases availability of critical business applications



Porsche Informatik is one of Europe's largest developers of custom software solutions for the automobile trade. Systems that support its business-critical applications need to be highly available and efficient. The company needed to streamline the management of over 1,600 virtual servers and 133 blade servers and achieved this with HPE OneView.

Challenge**Need to reduce deployment times**

Shaping the digitalization of the entire automobile business is a bold claim, but that is the ongoing commitment of Austrian company Porsche Informatik. Owned by Porsche Holding Salzburg and part of Volkswagen AG, it develops custom automotive trade software and has already produced over 160 digital solutions for wholesale, retail and aftersales service, as well as parts for distribution and financial services.

Porsche Informatik was formed in Austria 50 years ago and is deeply rooted in the automobile business. Its solutions are deployed in 26 countries across three continents and contribute to the success of Porsche Holding, Europe's largest automotive trading company.

“HPE OneView gives us a much better and more intuitive view of our HPE server infrastructure. This dramatically speeds up many system management tasks, including the deployment of new ESXi servers and VLAN configurations which are 90% faster.”

– Gerald Nezerka, Windows Services team manager for Infrastructure & Common Platforms, Porsche Informatik

IT for Porsche Informatik’s 450 employees is supplied from two data centers in Austria; one based in its hometown of Salzburg and another in Wels. The principal production site houses 1,300 servers and the secondary site has 320. With 500TB of storage and 12,000 end devices, the environment carries out 1.5 million automated tasks a month.

All the company’s x86 infrastructure is based on HPE servers with 20 c7000 blade enclosures hosting Windows®, Linux® and ESXi machines. Highly business-critical applications run across the whole estate, from physical Windows clusters to VMware® HA clusters, including in-house developed and third party programs.

Efficient blade operation is vital and Porsche Informatik used HPE Systems Insight Manager (SIM) and HPE Virtual Connect Enterprise Manager (VCEM) to manage its blade server profiles. However, adding new Virtual Local Area Networks (VLAN) to the ESXi servers was very time consuming. Adding a new VLAN to the 80+ blade server virtual connect profiles took several hours just for the VCEM part, and even then the outcome of the scripts was not always 100% accurate.

Solution

Single, integrated management platform

The company needed a new management solution so it sought the advice of its existing HPE contacts.

“We evaluated Cisco UCS, but to manage our HPE servers we wanted to use a Hewlett Packard Enterprise solution from the beginning so did not consider any other vendors,” says Gerald Nezerka, Porsche Informatik’s Windows Services team manager for Infrastructure & Common Platforms. “When HPE announced new features of the latest HPE OneView, we realized that it would provide us with a modern, working, management solution. The software was presented by our local HPE key account manager and system engineers and we discussed the extended management possibilities it would provide.

“We had very good support from HPE local partners who did the product presentations, planning and testing with us. Firstly, we used a QA environment to export all our server profiles from VCEM and developed a script to automate the import process into HPE OneView. During the implementation and migration HPE Pointnext were on-site to support us when required.”



90%

Faster deployment of new ESXi, VLAN and other configurations.

HPE OneView is a single integrated platform, packaged as an appliance and provides a software-defined approach to managing physical infrastructure through its entire lifecycle. It delivers simple, single-pane-of-glass lifecycle management for the complex aspects of enterprise IT, including servers, networking, software, power and cooling and storage. HPE OneView supports key scenarios, such as deploying bare metal servers, deploying hypervisor clusters from bare metal, performing ongoing hardware maintenance and responding to alerts and outages. It's designed for the physical infrastructure needed to support virtualization, cloud computing, big data and mixed computing environments.

The HPE OneView unified API also supports the introduction of composable infrastructures which use flexible pools of compute, storage and fabric, as well as a software-defined approach to operational changes that dramatically speeds up value delivery. These infrastructures must be controlled programmatically through a unified API.

Benefit

Fire-and-forget delivery

Speed is a word often associated with Porsche and it is now the watchword for many of Porsche Informatik's IT operations. New ESXi servers, VLANs and other configurations which need to be identical across multiple servers are now much easier, and 90% faster, to deploy. Infrastructure automation also allows Porsche Informatik to integrate hardware related tasks directly into its other workflows, while the HPE OneView single-pane-of-glass overview makes it easier to manage system administrators and engineers. As such, management time has been reduced by 50%.

"The unified API and global dashboard provide a much better, intuitive view of our HPE infrastructure," says Peter Cermak, IT systems engineer, Porsche Informatik. "Even people with only basic training can easily see the state of this part of our infrastructure. Not only do we now save a lot of time adding new servers and VLANs, it is also a fire-and-forget task. Previously, we had to re-check and debug profile-related issues but that is no longer necessary. In one operation, staff can configure many servers with identical settings and the time we save enables us to concentrate our work on customer requirements."

Customer at a glance

Software

- HPE OneView

“All our HPE x86 data center servers are now managed with HPE OneView and the time it saves is re-deployed on better customer service.”

– Peter Cermak, IT systems engineer, Porsche Informatik

Having a clearer and more intuitive view of the HPE infrastructure has a direct effect on system availability. IT trouble-shooters find it easier to locate the source of errors, saving approximately 50% on the time taken to identify routine issues like hardware failures. This all combines to reduce system downtime by 30%, which in turn supports increased business efficiency.

“Whenever new VLANs are required, the time from planning to production has significantly decreased, which means that we can react more quickly to security issues and the requirements of the business.”

Learn more at
[**hpe.com/info/oneview**](https://hpe.com/info/oneview)

“We know that HPE OneView has had a very positive effect on system administration. As we can be sure that new settings are active, this allows us to concentrate more on the Porsche Informatik business instead of manually changing configurations and validating that the settings are correct,” concludes Nezerka.



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