

HOLY

FASHION GROUP

HOLY FASHION NOW HAS GREATER AGILITY WITH COMPOSABLE INFRASTRUCTURE

A Swiss textile company switches to HPE Synergy and HPE 3PAR StoreServ

Industry

Textiles

Objective

A standardized, high-performance IT infrastructure for SAP HANA®

Approach

Comparison of a range of manufacturers' solutions with testing carried out at the HPE Customer Performance Center in Geneva

IT benefits

- Consolidation has simplified the IT infrastructure management
- Support for SAP HANA migration
- Migration to a fully virtualized and standardized x86 infrastructure, fully integrated with Veeam
- Enhanced understanding of IT performance, thanks to proactive systems diagnostics and incident trend reports

Business benefits

- SAP® Apparel and Footwear Solution (AFS) runs up to 400% faster, leading to faster provision of company information.
- A renewed focus on innovation, thanks to the greater productivity gained through a tenfold improvement in batch task performance.



CHALLENGE

A standardized IT infrastructure

Holy Fashion Group is a Swiss textile company that designs and distributes men's and women's clothing under the Strellson, JOOP!, and Windsor brand names. The company, including its IT, is organized centrally and has its head office in Kreuzlingen, Switzerland. The headquarters is connected to the other 53 company sites, as well as to suppliers and partners. "We actually prefer the term Business Solutions to IT. Our focus is on processes," explains Urs Zeberli, Head of IT Systems at Holy Fashion Group. "The underlying

IT infrastructure needs to be standardized and easy to manage."

Holy Fashion Group's most important application is SAP AFS combined with Oracle databases. A range of Microsoft applications and specialist solutions also operate in parallel. The entire IT system is 100% virtualized with VMware vSphere®. The company's data centers previously used HPE Integrity servers for data processing and HPE 3PAR StoreServ systems for data storage. "Data was fully mirrored at the application level. This constituted a huge amount of work for us, particularly in a disaster situation," explains Zeberli.

“From the outset, HPE Synergy impressed with its fantastic speed. SAP AFS now runs three to four times faster and we are enjoying a tenfold improvement in the performance of certain batch tasks.”

– Urs Zeberli, Head of IT Systems, Holy Fashion Group

Holy Fashion Group’s updated IT infrastructure combines HPE Synergy and HPE 3PAR StoreServ resulting in an incredibly rapid SAP environment.



Holy Fashion Group’s overall data center environment could no longer meet modern requirements. Zeberli also adds that HPE Integrity servers are based on Intel® Itanium® processors, which do not support SAP HANA. The textile firm is now planning to migrate the new technology platform in the next few years, following SAP’s announcement that support for AFS will cease in a few years’ time. However, its successor, SAP Fashion Management Solution (FMS), does run on HANA.

“We needed an updated data center to achieve two things for us. Firstly, we wanted a single operating system and a single infrastructure to reduce workload and to enable us to focus our knowledge and expertise in this one area. Secondly, we wanted to increase the performance of the SAP system,” explains Zeberli.

SOLUTION

Combination of HPE Synergy and HPE 3PAR StoreServ

In the end, Holy Fashion Group chose a different HPE solution combining the HPE Synergy 12000 frame and the HPE 3PAR StoreServ 8440. “The HPE Synergy infrastructure combines compute, storage, and networking resources effectively. However, as an IT specialist, the most important thing for me was to maintain a compact blade system, as this significantly simplifies management,” elaborates Zeberli.

This was the decisive factor for him. “No other manufacturer could provide a modern blade system.”

Advice from the HPE partner, Diligentis, was also influential in the decision to choose HPE Synergy. “We’ve been collaborating with Diligentis for years. The company once again demonstrated its ability to provide the best technological solutions at an excellent price. Everything was planned precisely from start to finish,” says Zeberli. “Diligentis and I have a good relationship with HPE, enabling us to resolve issues or problems really quickly.”

Holy Fashion Group, Diligentis, and HPE collaborated on the configuration of the new solution. The team also used the HPE Customer Performance Center in Geneva to remotely test the performance of SAP AFS on HPE Synergy. Zeberli and his colleagues ran their SAP system on a virtual machine, which was loaded into an HPE Synergy environment in Geneva that replicated the company’s new environment. Zeberli continues: “I was very optimistic as a result of this test run. The SAP system performed significantly better than in our old environment.”

A further benefit is HPE Proactive Care—a customized IT support service for Holy Fashion. This includes tailored reports for firmware and software version management, proactive systems diagnostics, and incident trend reports.



Case study

Holy Fashion Group

Industry

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Customer at a glance

Application

- SAP Apparel and Footwear Solution (AFS)

Hardware

- HPE 3PAR StoreServ 8440 4-node storage base
- HPE FlexFabric 5950 switch series
- HPE StoreEver MSL6480 tape library
- HPE Synergy 12000 frame
- HPE Synergy Compute module

Software

- HPE Synergy Composer
- HPE OneView

HPE Pointnext Services

- HPE Proactive Care

BENEFITS

Tenfold improvement in performance

Following installation, the stunning performance of HPE Synergy was immediately clear. “From the outset, HPE Synergy impressed us with its fantastic speed. We got used to it so quickly that we now hardly notice it at all,” explains Zeberli. SAP AFS now runs three to four times faster than before. The company even enjoys a tenfold improvement in performance for certain batch tasks. “The new IT infrastructure means that we are now equipped to migrate to SAP HANA at any time,” says Zeberli happily.

Holy Fashion Group uses HPE OneView to manage the HPE Synergy system. The software can also be deployed with the HPE 3PAR StoreServ storage device, “but that’s not something we need to do because our IT infrastructure is relatively static and none of our hardware needs to be particularly flexible,” explains Zeberli. HPE OneView also supports HPE Synergy Composer, the administration center for HPE Synergy. “The big advantage of HPE Synergy Composer is that it takes just a few clicks to load all the server module

firmware centrally in the HPE Synergy frame,” says a delighted Zeberli. “This is not offered by any rival products.”

Consolidating the backup environment was also a part of the project. Instead of having one backup area for the VMware® environment and another for the remaining systems, everything now initially runs on Veeam Backup & Replication and is then stored on HPE backup-to-disk systems. The data is then also outsourced to two HPE StoreEver MSL6480 tape libraries.

“The new infrastructure comprising HPE Synergy, HPE 3PAR StoreServ, and an HPE StoreEver Tape Library provides us with the power, stability, and flexibility we need to respond to future challenges,” says Zeberli. “It is already saving us time, allowing us to focus on what actually matters; on processes, innovation, and solutions rather than infrastructure management.”

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