



COMPUTACENTER ACHIEVES COMPLETE MODERNIZATION WITH HPE SYNERGY

HPE Synergy composability features standardize infrastructure while lowering costs and improving performance

Industry

IT solutions provider

Objective

Replace end-of-life infrastructure with a more standardized, flexible, scalable composable infrastructure

Approach

Implement HPE Synergy composable infrastructure to meet storage and performance needs today and in the future

IT matters

- Reduced operational costs by 10% over a 5-year period
- Delivered greater compute density to increase storage capacity
- Consolidated 100 physical servers to a single, more manageable platform and simplified their data center move

Business matters

- Provides a scalable foundation to handle future demands and growth
- Utilizes HPE 3PAR 3490 arrays to double the I/O capacity
- Improves and expands operational support by standardizing to a Windows-based platform
- Simplifies and automates management of the entire infrastructure with HPE OneView



Computacenter is a leading, global, and independent IT infrastructure services provider. In 2017, as part of Computacenter's infrastructure lifecycle management strategy, the Information Services division reviewed a number of options and approaches for their next generation of core server and storage infrastructure.

Founded in 1981, Computacenter provides user support, supply chain management, and secure provision of applications and data to customers around the globe. Today, the UK-based company has over 17,000 employees in offices throughout Europe, with revenues in excess of £5 billion.

In 2010, as part of a strategic program to implement common core systems across Computacenter's operating countries, the company invested in an enterprise-class storage and compute platform. The platform's primary function was to host all SAP® applications and databases, along with the

majority of major line-of-business (LOB) Oracle databases.

In recent years, the platform began to show its age and was becoming increasingly costly to run and maintain.

"The platform had reached the end of its life, which included IBM servers, storage, c-Class blade servers," explained Mark Sanders, Internal Solutions Architect at Computacenter. "We knew it needed to be replaced. In addition, we were looking to standardize our infrastructure on a single set of technology to simplify support and operational resources."

“We considered the longevity of the platform, and HPE Synergy gave us the best option.”

– Mark Sanders, Internal Solutions Architect, Computacenter

Computacenter, providing IT infrastructure services, leverages HPE Synergy composable infrastructure for an IT foundation they can easily modify and expand as necessary. What’s more, the company has lowered its costs while improving performance.



THE SEARCH FOR A NEW SOLUTION

The company began the process of searching for a new solution—one that would provide the storage, performance, flexibility, and scalability the company needed to continue serving its global client base.

“We were really at a crossroads where we needed to decide what to do,” said Nick Docking, Applications Director at Computacenter. “Historically, we have used a mixture of different hardware vendors and different operating systems, principally Windows and AIX operating systems. It was a case of looking at the cost of running those platforms and the apps of those platforms that drove the decision, along with the desire to standardize to a Windows-based infrastructure.”

The company considered multiple options, including re-platforming their SAP system. Ultimately, however, they chose HPE Synergy, which provided greater compute density and a more streamlined management of compute and storage resources via HPE OneView, an integrated IT management solution.

As Sanders explained, “We considered the longevity of the platform, and HPE Synergy gave us the best option. It also offered additional capabilities and options we hadn’t even considered.”

A MORE COST-EFFECTIVE, STANDARDIZED SYSTEM

HPE Synergy is a single, intelligent physical infrastructure that combines compute, storage, and fabric so all resources are instantly available to run any application. Computacenter chose HPE Synergy as their enterprise compute platform for a number of reasons.

First, it represented a logical evolution of traditional HPE BladeSystem c-Class technologies and was easy to implement, adopt, and support. The HPE Synergy frames delivered greater compute density and offered the scalability to more effectively handle future and more modern workloads by utilizing the composable nature of the technology.

The solution allowed Computacenter to consolidate its previous solution from 100 physical servers into a single and more manageable solution. This consolidation also simplified their data center migration from Kerpen to Frankfurt, Germany. By reducing the complexity of their infrastructure with HPE Synergy, Computacenter was able to lower costs and improve performance.

“Over a 5-year period, we are confident that we will achieve a 10% cost reduction with HPE Synergy,” said Docking. “When we moved from the previous storage system, it was nine years old. The flash array technology of the HPE 3PAR 9450 infrastructure provides faster storage along with greater I/O capacity.”



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Customer at a glance

With HPE Synergy, Computacenter has a more standardized, composable infrastructure to easily handle future storage and compute needs.

Solution

HPE Synergy composable infrastructure

HPE Solutions

- HPE Synergy 12000 Frames
- HPE Synergy 480 Gen10 Compute Modules
- HPE Synergy D3940 Storage Modules
- HPE 3PAR StoreServ Storage
- HPE OneView

“And it’s easier to manage,” added Sanders. “HPE OneView, which is built-in with Synergy installation provides a lot more information in a single pane of glass. It gives us the ability to flexibly assign local storage within the frames as needed.”

The company quickly realized benefits of standardizing their entire solution to a Windows-based system. “We had a limited set of people that could support the previous operating system,” said Sanders. “Now, because we are now on Windows, we have more coverage and support to handle IT needs.”

The new solution was also a space saver, with a smaller footprint that resulted in more physical space in the Computacenter data centers. “Thanks to the consolidation, we’re also saving physical space, since the new hardware is smaller. That saved us a lot of room,” said Sanders. “It also helped simplify and enable our data center move in Germany where we decommissioned approximately 100 physical servers during the migration to HPE Synergy.”

Now that the solution is in place, Computacenter is able to take advantage of HPE Synergy’s composable nature to consolidate additional workloads onto the platform, and have an IT foundation they can easily modify and expand as necessary. In the 18 months after the initial deployment, the company has doubled the footprint of its infrastructure to handle growth.

“We can easily scale capacity and capability to accommodate growth and to add new services,” said Sanders. “In the future, when something needs replacing, the new components will go into HPE Synergy. Ultimately, the idea is to base our core data center compute platform around Synergy.”

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