



Tropical Islands increases business process availability

Leisure resort upgrades to scalable HPE 3PAR StoreServ system

Objective

A high-availability, scalable and easy to manage storage infrastructure that is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and can cope with rapid company growth

Approach

Initial comparison of various technologies and products from different manufacturers before opting for HPE 3PAR StoreServ and arxes-tolina GmbH, an IT systems house that offers full migration

IT Matters

- Simple to manage the entire data centre environment via an end-to-end HPE solution
- High availability safeguarded during migration by arxes-tolina GmbH

Business Matters

- Stable, seamless 24x7 operation of business processes ensured by transparent failover function in the HPE 3PAR StoreServ system
- Highly scalable storage infrastructure supports future company growth and plans
- Business customers can be provided with IT capacity thanks to the multi-client capability of the HPE 3PAR StoreServ system



Challenge

24x7 high-availability IT for guests

Tropical Islands is Europe's largest tropical holiday resort. Spanning 66,000 square metres, one of the world's largest cantilever halls houses a unique destination that is open all year round and does not depend on the weather. This includes the world's largest indoor rainforest, the "South Sea", the "Lagoon" and a tropical village.

The accommodation is also unique: in the middle of the tropical landscape, visitors will find around 200 comfortable rooms and lodges as well as the Rainforest and Sunset Camp with 130 tents. The Tropical Islands camp site, mobile home park and holiday homes are also close by. More than one million people visit the resort each year, and the number is increasing as Tropical Islands continues to expand.

A new outdoor area of more than 35,000 square metres is currently under construction, and there are plans to build a hotel with a conference centre.

Guests move around the resort using a chip that opens the doors to their rooms and wardrobes and is also used to pay for food, drink and services. "If our data centre were to fail, the services open to our guests would be severely restricted, which is why high availability and redundancy are essential – around the clock, 365 days a year," explains Thomas Volmer, IT Manager at Tropical Islands.

At Tropical Islands, Oracle Hospitality products are used for hotel management, points-of-sale and distribution processes. The data centre also runs SAP applications, several databases, a large server farm with a VMware cluster and file services, including image and video data. The company currently has a total data volume of around 45 terabytes.

Customer at a glance

Application

Oracle Hospitality

Hardware

- 2 x HPE 3PAR StoreServ 7400
2-node storage basis, each with
72 x 900 GB SAS 10k
- 4 x HPE SN SB6000B Fibre
Channel switches with 16 Gbit/s

Software

- VMware vSphere



arxes-tolina GmbH

arxes-tolina GmbH is an international IT system house that offers high-quality, tried-and-tested solutions from a single source. Based in Berlin, the company works in the fields of IT, software, consulting and engineering. Its success is founded on almost 300 highly qualified employees who generate annual turnover of approximately €56 million.

In the past, storage was delivered by HPE EVA 4400 storage systems. Switches from Cisco were used in the storage area network. “The HPE EVA storage systems were very stable and highly available. However, they had reached their maximum capacity and could not be expanded further,” says Volmer. “Our rapid course of growth meant that we needed a new, future-proof solution that would be easy to manage despite increasing complexity.”

Solution

An end-to-end solution from HPE

Volmer developed a conceptual view for the future data centre and compared the technologies offered by various manufacturers. “Ultimately, we decided to stay with HPE. Firstly because the HPE 3PAR StoreServ system has a transparent failover function, which means that if a system fails, it switches to the other system automatically and no data is lost. Secondly, we are very familiar with the HPE management systems so our employees did not need to adjust. Finally, I am convinced that our data centre is most stable when we have an end-to-end solution from one manufacturer.”

Tropical Islands therefore decided to replace the existing Cisco SAN Fabric switches, which have a data transfer rate of 8 Gbit/s, with HPE SN SB6000B Fibre Channel switches with 16 Gbit/s. For the storage system, they chose two HPE 3PAR StoreServ 7400 with two nodes. In doing so, Tropical Islands increased the storage capacity in the SAN to two instances of 70 terabytes.

In the second stage, they selected an IT systems house certified by HPE that not only installs the hardware and software for the new solution, but also guides the migration of the systems. arxes-tolina GmbH came out on top “because they have the expertise and the organisational requirements that mean experts really will be available around the clock to help us in an emergency,” says Volmer.

Benefit

Well prepared for future company growth

The IT Manager is completely satisfied with the solution selected, which covers hardware, services and 24x7 support: “We now have a truly high-availability, fast and above all stable SAN infrastructure that we can easily expand as required. This allows me to take a more confident view of further company plans – even if the coming years will see around 10,000 people on the premises each day, making it the size of a small town.”

But the construction work is not the only thing that will make the SAN grow: in the near future, Tropical Islands is aiming to offer its guests pay TV via the network. The company is also considering a data storage option for its business customers in the conference hotel. “The multi-client capability of the HPE 3PAR StoreServ system offers the perfect conditions for this,” enthuses Volmer.

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