



“The VMware TAM Program is both profitable and beneficial for a large company such as Finanz Informatik. Through his detailed insight into a company, the TAM can provide a better picture of the impact a problem is having on a customer.”

— Ralf Albers, Team Leader for Server Virtualization at Finanz Informatik.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Challenges

More effective utilization of computer capacity and reduction in IT costs. Use of virtual computers for testing and evaluation purposes.

Solution

Server consolidation with VMware ESX, replacement of old hardware through migration solutions (P2V). Moreover, faster deployment and greater server capacity.

VMWARE applications used

- VI 3 Enterprise 513x2 CPU licenses

Installation details

- Server hardware: HP DL580 G4 and G5 IBMBladesLS41
- Storage hardware: HP EVA 8000 HDS USP-V
- Operating systems: Windows NT, Windows 2003 Server, Linux
- Virtualized software: In-house developments, Microsoft, Oracle, IBM Lotus Domino

Finanz Informatik

Finanz Informatik (FI) provides a full range of applications and services for the effective and efficient execution of banking transactions for Sparkassen-Finanzgruppe. In order to guarantee a timely and flexible deployment, in-house development as well as involvement and integration of partners is highly desired. Market and network partner applications can be integrated via standardized access through the appropriate interfaces.

Together with a 100% subsidiary, Finanz Informatik has four data centers at its command. There were software applications at these centers that could only be run under Windows NT, yet they were essential. That's why the Windows Server System Team worked out a concept to provide these applications virtually. Various virtualization products were evaluated in a pilot project, and VMware ESX was selected as the best solution. A customer/cashier counter application used for self-service devices, bank-statement printers and cashier work was tested in this context. The continuity of business-critical applications is hereby guaranteed.

Since 2008, all of the individual Sparkassen servers have been virtualized. As a result, the data center runs at higher capacity, and it is much easier to ensure failure resistance. By deploying VMware Converter (P2V), we can very easily and quickly replace old hardware with a minimum of downtime.

The VMware TAM (Technical Account Manager) helps the customers to evaluate the concepts created. The TAM supports their strategy in the form of product-roadmap workshops and architecture reviews. The TAM establishes extremely valuable and helpful contact to the Support team, the development department and to product managers, so that issues can be quickly and directly addressed.

Results

- Synchronization of FI strategy with VMware product strategy through the TAM
- More than 2,000 virtual machines running in the production environment
- Approx. 500 virtual machines running in the test and evaluation environment
- In the production environment the consolidation rate is 1:10-1:20, in the testing environment 1:50.

