



TOIFL Textile Care and Leasing is a new VMware customer

Due to aging hardware and new, complex services, TOIFL Textile Care and Leasing required a redesign of its IT infrastructure. With VMware vSphere® virtualization solutions and the innovative approach of software-defined storage with VMware Virtual SAN™, TOIFL's goals of high availability, flexible scalability, centralized monitoring, and cost-effective storage were achieved and implemented in just seven months.

For 60 years TOIFL Textile Care and Leasing of Vienna, Austria has provided clean table and bed linens, as well as uniforms for the healthcare, hospitality, industrial, and commercial sectors. Awards highlight the company's quality, hygiene, and environmentally friendly cleaning methods. The family-run business and its 220 employees live by the motto 'Clean into the future,' which embodies the company's core principles of long-standing expertise, customized services, and leading-edge technical equipment. The sterilization of each piece of cleanroom laundry for industrial use is controlled by laser particle counters and documented in a measurement log. The cleaning of surgical textiles is based on certified processes as well. Retirement and nursing homes garments can be individually identified and tracked using barcodes to facilitate deliveries that are closet-ready.

The Challenge

To support the company's complex services, TOIFL needs flawless logistics operations to ensure that all services are on schedule, documented, and high quality. The IT department operates server environments as part of an Enterprise Application Platform, with the underlying software mostly developed in-house, and it also sells this software to other companies. High availability, centralized monitoring, and cost efficiency are important criteria.

The company's existing hardware was several years old, and there were potential integration problems. Maintenance could only be performed on weekends to avoid interrupting everyday operations. In case of a disaster, the recovery would have taken too long, and available monitoring to detect potential performance risks was no longer satisfactory.

The Solution

All this pointed to a need to replace the existing infrastructure and led to the decision to follow a new direction involving virtualization. After a thorough evaluation, the company chose VMware for several reasons: vSphere is a proven, industry-leading virtualization solution that provides stability in large environments. In addition, the solution portfolio includes numerous attractively priced components. VMware Virtual SAN includes the important building block of software-defined storage, which simplifies management and saves money. VMware even provides support for legacy systems that run older operating systems, and TOIFL already had VMware expertise in-house.

INDUSTRY

Service Provider

LOCATION

Vienna, Austria

KEY CHALLENGES

- Update outdated hardware
- Avoid downtime during normal workdays
- Improve disaster recovery operations

SOLUTION

TOIFL chose VMware solutions due to their industry-leading reputation, seamless integration, and support for software-defined workflows in environments of all sizes.

BUSINESS BENEFITS

- Seamlessly support legacy and new systems
- Centralize storage management in complex, demanding IT environment
- Ensure high-availability of essential production systems

“True to our motto ‘Clean into the future,’ we opted for the concept of virtualization. VMware vSphere-integrated with Virtual SAN-lays the foundation for our modern and cost-efficient infrastructure, which we can always adapt to the needs of the business.”

- Rudolf Etzel,
Project Manager,
TOIFL Textile Care and Leasing

VMWARE FOOTPRINT

- VMware Virtual SAN
- VMware vSphere

Phase 1 of the server virtualization project which included the hardware purchase, implementation, testing, and migration (with VMware vCenter™ Converter during ongoing operations) was completed by TOIFL's internal IT team in seven months. VMware experts provided support for inquiries. Meanwhile, TOIFL's own IT organization has become a VMware partner. Phase 2 includes client use of VMware Horizon® View™ technology.

Business Benefits

The implementation of a centralized storage system enables performance management and monitoring from a single location, with routine tasks being performed automatically based on specific policies. VMware Virtual SAN forms pools of hardware resources. The seamless integration with the vSphere environment enables software-based provisioning of storage. "The use of Virtual SAN saves us the costs of having to buy expensive hardware SANs. Furthermore, we avoid a single point of failure, which would have been the case with a traditional, non-redundant SAN," says Rudolf Etzel, Project Manager at TOIFL Textile Care and Leasing.

Due to its unique management approach based on VM-centric policies and integrated automation, VMware Virtual SAN simplifies storage management. With Virtual SAN, IT services can now be provided quickly and based on demand, and efficient utilization reduces operating costs. "With Virtual SAN we can define SLAs at the VM-level, it is easy to expand, and the SSD cache enables high performance," says Etzel.

In addition, VMware vSphere® HA ensures the desired high availability, as mission-critical applications such as logistics can be restarted in a high-availability cluster without data loss. With vSphere Replication™, an additional VM replication can be made to another location to ensure extra safety. With the vSphere Data Protection™ component, backup and restore operations can be performed easily at the image/disk-level or the file-level.

The around-the-clock production operation was a central concern of the project. Live migration with vSphere vMotion® allows maintenance during ongoing business operations. Development and test environments can be supported with isolated VM templates or cloned-production environments.

Looking Ahead

With the new approach to virtualization, all objectives were met. Rudolf Etzel summarizes the benefits: "True to our motto 'Clean into the future,' we opted for the concept of virtualization. VMware vSphere-integrated with Virtual SAN-lays the foundation for our modern and cost-efficient infrastructure, which we can always adapt to the needs of the business."

