IBM

SECAR revs up performance and scalability with IBM BladeCenter solution

Overview

■ *Challenge*

To provide improved performance and manageability, reduce energy consumption, and enable the company to serve more customers without increasing their footprint

■ *Solution*

Implementing a virtualized environment that includes two IBM BladeCenter® H chassis with 14 IBM BladeCenter HS22 blades, one IBM System Storage™ DS4800 disk storage system, one IBM System Storage DS5300 disk storage system, and IBM System Storage SAN Volume Controller

■ *Benefits*

Enables the company to serve twice the number of clients as before in the same hardware footprint, improves manageability, and provides 66 percent savings on energy costs

SECAR BOHEMIA, a.s., was founded in Prague, Czech Republic, in 1992 and now has about 150 employees. The company provides real-time communication, tracking, and security systems for about 60,000 vehicles all over the world. They have a 98 percent success rate in locating stolen vehicles for their clients. SECAR's vehicle protection products operate using high-frequency (HF) radio airwaves, global positioning system (GPS), and global system for mobile communications (GSM).

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– Petr Vacek, technical director, SECAR

Due to a growing customer base and the need to instantly access critical information, SECAR decided to upgrade their server environment as well as their systems management software. They were looking for improved memory capacity, performance, and energy savings as well as the capability to virtualize. They also wanted to be able to manage their systems remotely from mobile devices.

Turning to a strategic partner

SECAR had been an IBM customer in the past and knew that they could depend on IBM to deliver an industry-leading solution to meet their evolving needs. After conducting strategic planning sessions with IBM, SECAR knew they were on the right track to improve their systems' performance and manageability.

"We're happy with IBM and their quality of services," says Petr Vacek, technical director for SECAR. "They have helped us solve problems constructively, and there was no reason to look for another IT partner."

Boosting performance and scalability without increasing footprint

Because SECAR needed to boost performance while maintaining the reliability they had always counted on from IBM, the company migrated from their existing servers to two IBM BladeCenter H chassis with 14 IBM BladeCenter HS22 blades featuring Intel® Xeon® 5500 series processors. Six of those blade servers run VMware, six run Microsoft® Windows®, and one runs Linux®. The final blade serves as a hot spare.

Without increasing their hardware footprint, SECAR achieved significant performance increases. With their new rack-dense, space-saving BladeCenter H chassis, they can now add blades as needed. In this way, SECAR can manage their growth while minimizing risk.

"With one IBM BladeCenter HS22 server, we can serve twice as many clients as before," says Petr Krstev, IT administrator for SECAR. "The new servers have more power for our monitoring room and our mapping applications, they give us more options, and they provide efficiency for our company and our customers."

To support their BladeCenter environment, SECAR implemented a storage area network (SAN) comprised of one IBM System Storage DS4800 disk storage system and one IBM System Storage DS5300 disk storage system. They implemented IBM System Storage SAN Volume Controller to facilitate the dynamic transfer of storage and easy reconfiguration of the storage environment. They are also using two IBM System Storage DS4100 disk storage systems for data backups, which are facilitated by IBM Tivoli® Storage Manager software. An additional IBM System Storage TS3310 is used for archiving.

Primed for virtualization, flexibility and energy savings

The BladeCenter H architecture provides SECAR with increased flexibility, as it easily integrates blades, storage, networking, I/O, and applications. SECAR uses BladeCenter Open Fabric Manager to manage blade I/O and network interconnects, and to boot from the SAN when the hot-spare blade is required.

"BladeCenter Open Fabric Manager gives us the flexibility we need to support our dynamic infrastructure," says Krstev. "It fits our needs perfectly."

The HS22 blade, which offers exceptional power management with integrated tools, is helping SECAR drive down energy costs. It also provides a solid foundation for energy-efficient virtualization technology. SECAR has virtualized 25 servers so far, resulting in significant energy savings. The company continues to virtualize one new server each month using VMware, in their ongoing quest to virtualize as much of their environment as possible.

"We are saving two-thirds on our power costs as a result of using virtualization on our new IBM blades," Krstev reports.

Enhancing systems management with IBM Systems Director

With their new systems in place to handle their increasing workloads, SECAR needed to get a better handle on the day-to-day management of those systems. By leveraging IBM Systems Director, the company gained a systems management foundation that reduces the complexity of virtualization, enables simplified management, and provides a single management console for multiple technologies. SECAR is even using Systems Director to send critical information directly to their IT administrators' mobile devices.

"We use IBM Systems Director to manage our BladeCenter implementation, which enables us to change what we want, when we want," says Krstev. "With this software, the information we need is sent through the system to our mobile phones, and this works very well for us."

Meeting the demands of a growing business

With the IBM solution in place, SECAR is well positioned to face the IT demands of a growing business. The company now has the performance and capacity to meet today's needs, and the scalability and flexibility to respond as needs change.

Says Krstev, "Choosing IBM as our vendor for servers and storage was the best decision I've made for SECAR."

Solution Components

- IBM BladeCenter® H
- IBM BladeCenter HS22 blades
- IBM Systems Director
- IBM BladeCenter Open Fabric Manager
- IBM System Storage™ DS4800
- IBM System Storage DS5300
- IBM System Storage SAN Volume Controller
- IBM System Storage TS3310 Tape Library

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For more information

Contact your IBM sales representative or IBM Business Partner. Visit us at:

ibm.com/systems/bladecenter

For more information about SECAR BOHEMIA/Sherlog, visit: www.sherlog.com

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