"We have had a great experience working with Fujitsu and DataCore and the new solution enables us to deliver a higher level of service to our customers. It introduces a lot more flexibility in how we can store and access our data."

Andre Weits
ICT Manager
Koninklijke Vezet

Koninklijke Vezet deployed two Fujitsu DataCore SVA storage virtualization appliances to improve data availability and enable more effective storage management.

At a glance

Country: Netherlands
Industry: Retail
Founded: 1914
Employees: 1,200
Website: www.vezet.nl

Challenge

When Koninklijke Vezet's existing hardware-based storage solution reached the end of its lease, the company decided to introduce a more flexible, software-defined approach to storage with cross-site high availability.

Solution

Koninklijke Vezet deployed two high-performance Fujitsu DataCore SVA storage virtualization appliances, with two Fujitsu ETERNUS DX200 Fibre Channel SAN systems, powered by DataCore's ground breaking SANsymphony-V software platform and Fujitsu's most advanced PRIMERGY server technology.

Benefit

- Immediate improvement in the quality of the data and the speed with which it is processed

- Optimal dual-site stability provides peace of mind

- Flexibility in data storage enables business intelligence

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Customer

Since 1914, Koninklijke Vezet has pioneered the farming, manufacture and supply of groceries for the Dutch market. In a single week, 175,000 bags of iceberg lettuce, 150,000 kilograms of peppers and up to 250,000 kilos of carrots and more are processed, totalling 1.5m kilograms of raw materials across its entire 200-line product range.

Products and services

- Fujitsu DataCore SVA storage virtualization appliance
- FUJITSU Server PRIMERGY RX2530 M2
- FUJITSU Storage ETERNUS DX200
- Brocade Fibre Channel switches

Challenge

Koninklijke Vezet had been using a complex storage solution that was reaching the end of its lease. It wanted to introduce a virtualized approach that would simplify storage and asked local IT partner SJ Solutions for advice.

"When the contract ended on our previous solution, it made sense to explore other ways of managing our storage requirements. We were looking for an easier and more convenient way of connecting the hardware, fiber channels and controllers," explains Andre Weits, ICT Manager, Koninklijke Vezet. "We have a long relationship with SJ Solutions and trusted the team to come up with the right solution."

One of the key criteria was to shift the complexity from hardware-defined logic to a more software-based platform. This would make the management and maintenance more straightforward for its office tools, ERP applications and bespoke manufacturing solutions.

"There was no evaluation process as such because SJ Solutions know how we think and what the requirements are, so when they suggested deploying DataCore running on Fujitsu hardware, we were confident it would meet our needs," adds Weits. "There was time pressure because the lease on the existing kit was ending, however, good preparation and design by SJ Solutions and Fujitsu ensured we were ready for implementation."

Solution

The result is a jointly integrated, high-performance Fujitsu DataCore SVA storage virtualization appliance, with two Fujitsu ETERNUS DX200 Fibre Channel SAN systems, powered by DataCore's ground breaking SANsymphony-V software platform and Fujitsu's most advanced PRIMERGY server technology. The new SVA turn-key appliances are fully tested, integrated and configured as complete systems including all necessary hardware and software tuning to provide a simple to deploy, high-performance storage virtualization appliance.

DataCore Software is a leader in software-defined storage and its storage virtualization software empowers Koninklijke Vezet to seamlessly manage and scale its data storage architectures, delivering massive performance gains at a fraction of the cost of more traditional hardware solutions. At the same time, SANsymphony-V software solves many storage-related challenges raised by server and desktop virtualization in contemporary data centers and cloud environments. The software forms an active, transparent virtualization layer across diverse storage devices to maximize the availability, performance and utilization of disk resources.

The DataCore software is hosted on ten FUJITSU Server PRIMERGY RX2530 M2 devices in combination with FUJITSU Storage ETERNUS DX200. The solution is mirrored in two separate data centers for added resilience and currently has 60TB of data capacity.

All Data was migrated without downtime, "We only had 6TB of file-based data to migrate in a scheduled window, which we did in parallel to the existing storage in order to minimize risk," says Weits. "Working with Fujitsu and SJ Solutions, the whole project took around two months and includes 125 virtual machines to support our business-critical applications."

Benefit

Koninklijke Vezet has seen an immediate improvement in the quality of the data and the speed with which it is processed and analyzed. This translates into increased efficiency and productivity in the production environment and office, which means that stock in the supply chain is easy to monitor and dispatch.

"As it is software-defined, it introduces a lot more flexibility in how we can store and access our data. It also has in-built capacity to cope with the data growth we are expecting," continues Weits. "This enables us to add a layer of Business Intelligence and more closely analyze historical data which gives us visibility of production and helps us maintain equipment more effectively and forecast more accurately."

The company has also been impressed by the stability of the new solution – apart from one minor firmware upgrade (without downtime), there have been no issues in five months of production. And, in the event of any problems, Koninklijke Vezet is assured that SJ Solutions is just a phone call away.

"The system has been very reliable, which relieves the burden on my IT team and allows them to focus their resources elsewhere," comments Weits. "It simply does its job and gives us the tool to operate more efficiently."

With the new hybrid DataCore/Fujitsu solution being such a success, Weits and his team are looking to the future roadmap, which will include adding an element of cloud-based storage. The in-built flexibility of the new solution means it can easily adapt to these changing demands.

"We have had a great experience working with Fujitsu, SJ-Solutions and DataCore, and the new solution enables us to deliver a higher level of service to our customers," concludes Weits. "We'll certainly consider partnering with Fujitsu again as our technology needs evolve."

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