

IBM Customer Reference



Migros Tessin

Synopsis: *IBM Global Services - Integrated Technology Services helps Swiss company migrate its core business applications from a mainframe and Hewlett-Packard outsourcing environment to a reliable, flexible, open and cost-effective IBM eServer xSeries and Linux platform*

Location: San Antonino
Switzerland

Industry: Retail

Focus Area: Server Consolidation

URL: http://www.migros.ch/Migros_FR

Customer Background:

The Migros cooperatives, a holding comprised of 10 Swiss corporations, combine to form the largest retailer in Switzerland. The Migros network consists of almost 600 stores (retail accounts for two-thirds of the group's activity), including supermarkets, convenience stores, department stores, banking and insurance operations, restaurants, and music and computer software retail. Migros runs supermarkets in France and Germany and exports products to Austria, the United Kingdom and the United States. Founded in 1925, Migros was transformed into a cooperative by the late consumer rights advocate Gottlieb Duttweiler.

The cooperative is responsible for about 15 percent of Switzerland's retail sales and controls nearly 25 percent of the Swiss food market. Its charter demands that 0.5 percent of its sales be spent for social improvements. To that end, the cooperative produces concerts and art shows, offers language and music lessons, and sponsors vocational training. It also is involved with other society-improving endeavors.

Additionally, Migros is the largest Swiss chocolate manufacturer. It offers online shopping through M-Online in Switzerland.

Business Need:

Migros Tessin, a cooperative under the greater Migros banner, was running its previous core business applications environment on outdated mainframe and Hewlett-Packard servers. The company needed to migrate to a reliable, flexible, open and cost-effective platform. The previous set of servers, hosted by a third party and dating back to 1975, were becoming rapidly obsolete, and Migros decided that the company's internal skills were insufficient to migrate them to its own data center. Therefore, Migros turned to IBM to complete the migration by April of 2003 and minimize any potential impact to the company's core business applications (logistics, orders, knowledge management of goods).

Solution:

The customer chose to migrate its core business applications to an IBM Linux cluster, which includes 16 xSeries

nodes running Linux Red Hat Advanced Server 2.1, Lifekeeper and Oracle Rac for high availability services. Four xSeries 360 production nodes run the customer's core business application (TIBOX). Out of these four nodes, two are designated for running an application server; the other two run an Oracle database. Each of the pairs of nodes work in an Active/Active clustering mode with load balancing. Another four x360 nodes are reserved for other business applications such as Apache, Samba, Oracle Enterprise Management (OEM), Tlog (a data extraction program) and File Transfer Protocol (FTP). Four additional x330 nodes are reserved for the core business application test environment. All of the data from the applications running on the Linux cluster is kept in a Storage Area Network (SAN), which includes Hitachi storage products.

The advantage of having the Linux cluster in the Migros Data Center is that the customer now can easily make any application modifications when needed. The xSeries and Linux solution also exceeds the customer's quality standards in terms of stability, security and scalability. The xSeries servers were chosen to run the customer's core business applications because of their advanced architecture and their ability to manage and monitor the Linux Clusters from a management node. The customer also is impressed with the xSeries compatibility with the Linux Clusters.

IBM Global Services - Integrated Technology Services (ITS) provided Hardware Installation Services and Linux Support Services throughout the migration. Specifically, the services included:

- Installation of XCAT for the management node
- Hardware preparation and assembly
- Installation of various software
- Cluster/fail over implementation.

Benefits of the Solution:

The customer has realized the greatest benefits from the innovative architecture of the xSeries servers and the Linux Red Hat compatibility. By consolidating to the xSeries and Linux solution, Migros has experienced a cost savings of US\$500 thousand per year. The customer also is very satisfied with the open source code of Linux and the independence from Microsoft strategy that the Linux operating system enables.