

Moving SAP to open systems with HP Integrity
is good medicine for top hospital



“After platform migration, the response times have decreased by approximately 50 per cent and we know that the new HP hardware environment, comprising HP Integrity rx7620/rx4640 Servers and HP StorageWorks EVA 5000, has provided us with enough resources for additional growth.”

Christian Bauer, project manager for SAP migration, AKH Linz

LINZ AKH





Why HP?

- HP provided a very competitive solution that exactly met the hospital's needs.
- AKH Linz had been a satisfied HP/Compaq customer since 1995.
- HP is the principal supplier to the hospital which already runs over 100 HP servers.

Hardware

- 2 x HP Integrity rx7620 servers
- 2 x HP Integrity rx4640 servers
- 1 x HP StorageWorks EVA5000

Software

- SAP R/3 Enterprise
- SAP for Healthcare and IS-H*MED
- Microsoft Windows 2003 Enterprise Edition (64-bit)
- Microsoft SQL Server 2000 Enterprise Edition (64-bit)
- Microsoft Cluster Service

With 1,000 beds and over 2,200 employees, Allgemeines Krankenhaus Linz (AKH Linz) is the main hospital of the capital of Upper Austria. It caters for 50,000 in-patients and offers over 5.4 million out-patient services in addition to carrying out 30,000 operations a year.

The smooth running of AKH Linz revolves around its SAP(r) R/3 applications, which include Financial Accounting (FI), Asset Management (AM), Controlling (CO), Materials Management (MM), Plant Maintenance (PM) and Sales & Distribution (SD), plus a special catering application written by Aicon.

Medical applications

Most importantly, AKH Linz also runs SAP for Healthcare which deals with patient administration and accounting and the SAP IS-H*MED application for medical documentation - the central application for doctors and nurses. With many sub-components attached to SAP R/3 such as laboratory, communications server, the archiving system and digital radiology, SAP R/3 Enterprise is the hospital's central hub for information, and the number of users is growing.

Previously, AKH Linz ran its SAP applications on an iSeries from IBM but it was difficult to integrate the proprietary hardware into an existing SAN infrastructure and there were also scalability problems.

Open systems

"Because of a constantly increasing number of SAP users, mainly introduced by a project called 'care management', the need to convert the DB2/400 database to ASCII and

a double-byte representation, which introduces additional hardware costs as a pre-requisite for SAP R/3 Enterprise on the iSeries platform, we decided to migrate to an open systems platform,” said Christian Bauer, project manager for SAP migration, AKH Linz. “Because of the memory consumption especially introduced from IS-H*MED, it was clear that the new hardware platform had to be based on a true 64 bit architecture. As a satisfied customer of HP servers, we decided to migrate our SAP R/3 system to HP Integrity servers.”

Performance increases

The hospital moved to a three-tier environment. It installed a database cluster of two HP Integrity rx7620 servers with Microsoft(r) Cluster Service and to run its applications, it brought in two HP Integrity rx4640 servers along with an HP StorageWorks Enterprise Virtual Array EVA5000 solution based on Microsoft Windows(r) Server 2003 and Microsoft SQL Server 2000.

“After we installed these HP solutions, levels of performance of SAP have increased,” said head of IT server infrastructure Mario Voit. “We now have over 700 SAP users and expect this to increase to over 1,000 and the new solution will cope well with that.”

Christian Bauer added: “After platform migration, the response times have decreased by approximately 50 per cent and we know that the new HP hardware environment has provided us with enough resources for additional growth.”

Customer at a glance

- **Industry sector:** Healthcare
- **Company:** AKH Linz
- **Headquarters:** Linz, Upper Austria
- **Telephone:** +43 (0) 70 7070 1754
- **Number of employees:** 2,000
- **URL:** www.akh.linz.at



Challenge

- With various sub-components and medical add-ons, SAP R/3 is the central hub of information at AKH Linz, one of Austria's principal hospitals.
- AKH Linz previously ran SAP R/3 on an IBM iSeries but this brought SAN integration and scalability problems.
- Expecting the number of SAP users to increase to over 1,000, it wanted to move to an industry standard environment.

Solution

- AKH Linz installed a database cluster of 2 HP rx7620 Integrity servers with Microsoft Cluster Service.
- Two HP Integrity rx4640 servers were used to run applications.
- An HP StorageWorks EVA5000 central storage solution was also implemented based on Microsoft Windows Server 2003 and Microsoft SQL Server 2000.

Results

- Following the migration, response times have decreased by some 50 per cent.
- The new infrastructure has the scalability to cope with anticipated increases in the number of SAP users.
- In addition to improvements in performance, the system is also very stable which increases efficiency for all users and in turn improves the service given to patients.

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