INTRAPROC

Manufacturer Boosts Data Security, Avoids $7,000 in Hardware Costs with Server Upgrade

Customer: Intraproc GmbH
Website: www.intraproc.com
Customer Size: 25 employees
Country or Region: Germany
Industry: Manufacturing—High tech and electronics
Partner: TrinityComputer.de GmbH
Partner Website:
www.trinitycomputer.de

Customer Profile
Intraproc manufactures plastic identification card systems and biometric identification systems used by commercial and government organizations worldwide. The company is based in Ratingen, Germany.

Software and Services
- Microsoft Server Product Portfolio
  - Windows Server 2012 Essentials
  - Windows Server 2012 Datacenter
  - Microsoft Exchange Server 2010
  - Microsoft SQL Server 2012
- Technologies
  - Hyper-V

Hardware
- HP ProLiant DL380 Gen8 Server
- HP ProLiant MicroServer

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www.microsoft.com/casestudies

"Because we are in the security business, our IT systems must be secure. With Windows Server 2012 Essentials, all our data is on the server, and client backup gives us an extra layer of protection."

Axel Berns, General Manager, Intraproc

Because its customers look to it for security solutions, Intraproc sought a more secure server environment. It deployed Windows Server 2012 Essentials and Windows Server 2012 Datacenter to virtualize, simplify, and better secure its technology. Intraproc enhanced data security, reduced hardware costs by US$7,000, and slashed energy bills by 50 percent. It also boosted application performance and employee productivity and simplified IT management.

Business Needs

Intraproc is in the security business, manufacturing employee identification cards and biometric identification systems that companies and government organizations worldwide use to ensure authorized entry access. Intraproc wanted its computer systems to be as well protected as its customers' environments.

The company had five physical servers, used to develop and test software and run core applications such as Microsoft SQL Server 2008 R2 software, the Microsoft Visual Studio 2010 development system, Microsoft Exchange Server 2007, and Windows Small Business Server 2003. The servers were located in the various departments that used them, which meant that they were not as physically secure as they could be. Also, although employees were supposed to put all critical data on the servers, this did not always happen, and data was lost when a laptop was misplaced or a PC failed. When this happened, data security could potentially be jeopardized, and someone had to spend a day restoring the PC.

That someone was usually Axel Berns, General Manager of Intraproc, who had better things to do. "Even though we have an outstanding IT partner in TrinityComputer.de, I try to take care of

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small tasks myself for efficiency's sake," Berns says. "However, tasks such as restoring PCs, changing server access policies, and making sure that developers had enough disk storage took my attention away from running the business."

About half of the company's 25 employees spend time at customer locations and sometimes needed documents that were in the office. They had to ask colleagues to put the documents on an FTP site for access.

The older servers gobbled electricity each month and presented a management burden. Performance suffered when running newer applications and larger data volumes, and the servers could not run some applications at all. By May 2012, Intraproc faced the prospect of refreshing all of its servers and storage, at tremendous cost.

Solution

TrinityComputer.de recommended that Intraproc upgrade to the Windows Server 2012 Essentials operating system, which integrates remote access, Internet connectivity, file and printer sharing, and data backup and restoration. "Oliver Sommer [Senior Consultant at TrinityComputer.de] has been involved with us for about six years," Berns says. "I really trust his advice as to what we should and shouldn't do. He recommended a really interesting setup for us."

The recommendation was to deploy Windows Server 2012 Essentials on an HP ProLiant MicroServer to provide core server and administrative functions, and to deploy the Windows Server 2012 Datacenter operating system on an HP ProLiant DL380 Gen8 Server to serve as a virtualization host server. On the virtualization host server, TrinityComputer.de used the Hyper-V technology included in Windows Server 2012 Datacenter to create seven virtual machines, which run all of Intraproc's applications, including Microsoft Exchange Server 2010 and Microsoft SQL Server 2012. Intraproc ended up with nine servers, only

two of which were physical, and was able to eliminate the five old physical servers.

"We are very happy with our two new HP servers, which are much quieter, more powerful, and more energy-efficient than our previous servers," Berns says. "We're far from approaching their performance limits and have plenty of growing room."

Intraproc uses Windows Server 2012 Essentials to back up all of its PCs to the HP MicroServer hardware. Employees use the Remote Web Access feature in Windows Server Essentials to access server-based files when out of the office. Berns uses the administrative console to perform basic network tasks far faster than he could before. By consolidating five servers to two, Intraproc can better ensure the physical security and reliability of the systems and centrally manage all servers through one console.

Benefits

By deploying Windows Server 2012 Essentials and Windows Server 2012 Datacenter, Intraproc has enhanced data safety, saved thousands of dollars, improved application performance and employee productivity, and simplified technology management. All this delivers greater peace of mind.

Enhance Data Security
By reducing its servers and putting them in one location, Intraproc made its technology more secure. Better backup of PCs enhances data security. "Because we are in the security business, our IT systems must be secure," Berns says. "With Windows Server 2012 Essentials, all our data is on the server, and client backup gives us an extra layer of protection. As a general manager, this gives me greater peace of mind if someone loses a laptop."

Avoid $7,000 in Hardware Costs, Eliminate $300 in Monthly Energy Costs
By upgrading to Windows Server 2012 Essentials, Intraproc saved money on

additional servers, storage, and power. It realized a cost avoidance of US$4,000 by buying only two new servers instead of five and an operational savings of $300 a month in not having to power them. "We have very high energy costs in Germany, and we reduced our energy costs by 50 percent with the newer HP servers," Berns says. "Our margins are small, so savings like this are important." Intraproc also realized a storage cost avoidance of $3,000 by using the storage included in the new servers.

Improve Application Performance and Employee Productivity
Application performance has improved with the newer software and hardware. Thanks to the improved application performance, greater reliability, and automatic client backup, productivity at Intraproc is higher. "Labor costs in Germany are among the highest in the world, so if our employees can do the same job in less time, it's a business advantage," Berns says. By using Remote Web Access, employees can quickly access documents from customer locations, which helps them complete jobs sooner and improves the company's reputation.

Simplify IT Management, Increase Peace of Mind
Intraproc has a far simpler server environment to manage, even though it has more servers (physical and virtual). By using virtualization and the Windows Server 2012 Server Manager console, TrinityComputer.de and Berns can check the health of the entire Intraproc IT environment from one place. "We have less work to manage our technology so we can focus on developing great products and growing our business," Berns says. "I can define one security policy and apply it to all servers versus defining access rules individually for each department and server. Also, it takes an hour to restore a failed PC today versus a day previously. All in all, I sleep better at night knowing that our technology foundation is solid."

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