CHARON-AXP ensures long-term availability of compliance data for Harz-Klinikum

The Challenge

Harz-Klinikum Wernigerode-Blankenburg was created in 2004 by the merger of two hospitals. Both hospitals operated distinct hospital information systems (HIS) and accounting applications on one OpenVMS AlphaServer each. The new hospital created by the merger faced a choice: either combine the two existing systems, which would have necessitated complex data consolidation, or start fresh and archive the old data. Since the merger also entailed extensive organizational restructuring, the second option was chosen. "This allowed the new system to be adapted to the hospital's future organizational processes without carrying over old data from the legacy systems," explained Andreas Ritter, head of the Harz-Klinikum IT department. The old patient data was recorded to microfilm and stored in a central archive. The accounting data, on the other hand, had to remain accessible for several years for compliance reasons, so the legacy systems had to be maintained somehow until then. In the meantime, however, maintaining the old hardware was becoming increasingly difficult, due to the scarcity of spare parts and high maintenance costs. "We started to look for alternatives," said Ritter.

The Solution

Andreas Ritter learned that an AlphaServer could be virtualized in a binary-compatible way on modern x86 hardware using the CHARON-AXP emulator from Stromasys. He contacted the IT consulting firm Invenate, which supports companies with OpenVMS systems throughout Germany and has successfully implemented many Charon solutions. Following a comprehensive analysis of the current environment, Invenate proposed a new system design and a migration plan for the two Alphas. As applications needed to be accessed only occasionally, and simultaneous access to both systems was not a strict requirement, the two Alphas could be configured on a single virtual system. The server to be started could then be selected within the Windows operating environment. The installation required only one Charon license, making this an economical solution.

PARTNER PROFILE

Invenate GmbH provides consulting and solutions for IT infrastructure. Its certified system engineers for OpenVMS (HP OpenVMS CSE) support VAX, Alpha, and Charon installations throughout Germany. Invenate consultants have special competence in all leading virtualization solutions for server environments with high availability requirements, as well as legacy systems. In Microsoft environments, Invenate specializes in network and exchange infrastructures. Invenate's customers include major manufacturers and financial companies, as well as small and medium enterprises with complex network infrastructures or high availability requirements. For more information, please visit:

www.invenate.de

CUSTOMER PROFILE

Harz-Klinikum Wernigerode-Blankenburg is a leading medical group comprising 10 clinics with a total of 529 inpatient and 48 outpatient beds. Its highly competent team of doctors and nurses provide an excellent standard of care at the Otto-von-Guericke teaching hospital of the University of Magdeburg. For more information, please visit:

www.harzklinikum.com

Volker Halle, an Invenate technical consultant and internationally respected VMS specialist, installed the system and migrated the applications and data. "It all went on schedule and without a hitch," Ritter confirmed. "Invenate demonstrated a high level of competence and professionalism. We are relieved to be rid of the old hardware and the associated risks."

The Result

Since the migration, the applications have been running smoothly and trouble-free. Aside from a marked improvement in performance, the hardware change is unnoticeable. This positive first experience has encouraged the hospital to envisage using Charon again when it replaces the production version of the hospital application it is currently using, which runs on an Alpha DS20 with the Tru64 operating system.

About Stromasys

Stromasys is the original and leading provider of enterprise-class cross-platform virtualization solutions, including PDP-11, Digital VAX and Alpha, HP 3000, and SPARC servers. The company extends the life cycle of business and mission-critical systems through virtualization, modernization, and system enhancement.

Founded in 1998 and headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, and in Boston, Massachusetts, with sales offices as well as engineering, development, and research labs located around the world, Stromasys has implemented more than 5,000 cross-platform virtualization solutions for the world's leading companies in over 50 countries.

« *CHARON-AXP is the right solution for us. We can run our legacy applications without worrying about availability.* »

Andreas Ritter,

CIO,

Harz-Klinikum Wernigerode-Blankenburg

AMS

2840 Plaza Place, Ste 450
Raleigh, NC 27612,
USA
Tel: +1 919 239 8451
Fax: +1 919 239 8451

Email: us.sales@stromasys.com

EMEA & HQ

Avenue Louis Casaï, 84
1216 Cointrin / Geneva
Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 794 1070
Fax: +41 22 794 1073

Email: emea.sales@stromasys.com

APAC

28/F Room D, Tower B, Billion Centre
1 Wang Kwong Road, Kowloon Bay
Kowloon, Hong-Kong SAR, China
Tel: +852 2853 1600
Fax: +852 2853 1699

Email: apac.sales@stromasys.com

www.stromasys.com

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engineered solutions