Success Story

SuSE Linux AG opts for industry-standard servers from HP for mySAP™ Business Suite

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SuSE Linux AG decided to install mySAP™ Business Suite, SAP's comprehensive family of solutions that provides complete integration and scalability, on cost-competitive HP industry-standard servers running SuSE Linux Enterprise Server. The new platform offers robust performance, scalability, stability and a very low Total Cost of Ownership (TCO).

Challenge
SuSE Linux AG was looking to optimize costs and increase productivity. It decided that an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system would give it the functionality it needed to achieve these goals.

In the first step, the new ERP system was to support business-critical processes at the company headquarters (production management, inventory management, hardware and software sales as well as service billing for training, support, consulting etc.).

Solution

SuSE decided to roll out mySAP Business Suite. Since its foundation in Nuremberg in 1992, SuSE has evolved into one of the world's leading developers and suppliers of the Linux open source operating system. The company thus decided to install mySAP Business Suite on Linux. Thanks to SuSE's long-standing strategic partnership with SAP (which covers service and support), both companies have extensive know-how and experience in planning and managing projects of this nature.

This was to be a landmark mySAP Business Suite project, however. It was the first time that a company planned to roll out Linux on both the backend and frontend.

HP was chosen to supply the server platform for the new deployment. Here again, HP's long-standing strategic alliances with SAP and SuSE meant it had the experience and insights necessary to ensure successful implementation of this complex project.

Important factors that swayed the decision in favor of HP included the robust design and excellent performance of ProLiant Servers. High availability (through redundant components) and scalability, simplified administration and lowest TCO also played a role in the decision.

"Our close cooperation with HP over the years means we are thoroughly familiar with the features and advantages of ProLiant Servers," adds Ludwig Ehnes. "As a result, our own staff were able to handle the roll-out with minimal external support." Implementation of mySAP Business Suite involved extensive quality tests, programming company-specific add-ons, connecting suppliers and service providers as well as employee training.

Implementation

SuSE Linux Enterprise Server has been certified for mySAP Business Suite on the Intel® x86 architecture since April 2001. Accordingly, the HP ProLiant offering is certified to support SAP applications running on the Linux platform.

Hardware

- Test & Development system
  One ProLiant ML530 server with SAP DB™ as
  the database management system, featuring two
  Pentium III Xeon 866 MHz processors, 2 GB RAM
  and 12 hot-plug hard drives with a total capacity
  of 144 GB (in RAID configurations).

Hardware

- Productive system
  Two ProLiant DL580 servers with SAP DB as
  the database management system. One server
  features two Pentium III Xeon 700 MHz processors,
  2 GB RAM and 13 hot-plug hard drives with a
  total capacity of 162 GB (in RAID configurations)
  while the second server features four Pentium III
  Xeon 700 MHz processors, 4 GB RAM and two
  hot-plug 18 GB hard drives. The hard drive systems
  are connected to HP Smart Array Controller 3200
  or 4200 and are configured as RAID 1 and
  RAID 5.

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with the SAP and HP teams to ensure optimum inter-
operability across the entire solution landscape, thus
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by SAP," explains Ludwig Ehnes, SAP Project Manager
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SuSE decided to roll out mySAP Business Suite in
steps. The system went live at the beginning of 2003.
Currently, up to 120 employees are working with the
SD (Sales & Distribution), MM (Materials Management),
FI (Financial Accounting) and CO (Controlling) modules.

The early stages of the project involved evaluating
business processes, configuring the SAP R/3 modules
and migrating high volumes of master data from non-
integrated legacy solutions.

On the productive side, mySAP Business Suite runs on
two ProLiant DL580 servers (application and database
servers). For its test and development environment, SuSE
uses a high-performance ProLiant ML530 tower system.
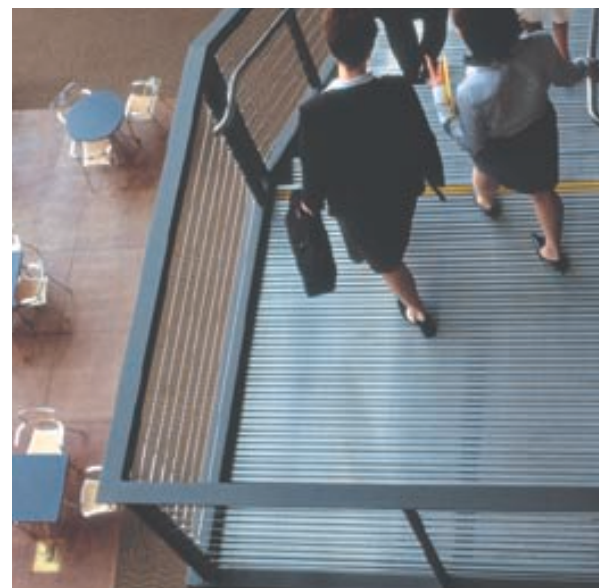
Positive early experience
The system has been extremely stable since going live.
This is partly attributable to the optimization and fine-

tuning undertaken by SuSE at the system hardware,
operating system and application software level. Milisav
Radmanic, Director Internal IT at SuSE Linux AG
summarized his experience with HP's ProLiant family of
industry-standard servers by saying: "We have not had
a single fault since going live. The system simply stays
up and running."

Find out more about the HP SAP
alliance – visit www.hp.com/go/sap.

Challenge

- Implement mySAP Business Suite
- Optimize enterprise-wide collaboration
- Integrate customers, partners and employees
- Increase efficiency across all business processes
- Enhance productivity and profitability

Solution

- Uniform, end-to-end solution integrating mySAP Business Suite, ProLiant Servers from HP and SuSE Linux Enterprise Server as the operating system
- First SAP deployment worldwide that runs Linux on both the frontend and backend

Results

- Flexible, scalable, cost-effective platform supports seamless mySAP Business Suite rollout
- Optimum support for production management, inventory management, hardware and software sales, and financial processes with mySAP ERP
- Minimum TCO thanks to optimum business process support and cost-efficient servers

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