

CUSTOMER STORY

High performance for mission-critical applications

Photo: Bilstein Group

Computacenter has provided Ferdinand Bilstein with a high-availability, high-performance PureStorage cluster for the Oracle database environment.

Services

- Data Center Strategy
 - Technology Sourcing
 - Technology Refresh Services
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User experience

- Improved performance
 - Increased user satisfaction
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Business impact

- Increased productivity
 - Cost reduction
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Objective

Ferdinand Bilstein GmbH + Co KG, a specialist for independent aftermarket repair solutions, operates four data centers at its two locations in Ennepetal and Gelsenkirchen. As the existing central storage system no longer met the increased requirements for performance and availability, the spare parts manufacturer was looking for an alternative solution for its business-critical applications.

'The age of our existing solution was not the only reason for the problems that arose,' explains Andreas Biesenbach, IT Database Specialist at Ferdinand Bilstein. 'Above all, our system was repeatedly slowed down by the fact that we covered all of our requirements via a single central storage platform. A dedicated storage for our Oracle database environment should remedy this.'

Solution

Computacenter has already comprehensively advised Ferdinand Bilstein in the past for both data centers and primary storage. In addition, Computacenter's excellent expertise in the areas of Oracle databases and SAN storage was so convincing that the IT service provider was immediately called in for the planned project.

In close coordination with the customer, Computacenter supported the selection of a scalable SAN storage model and accompanied all subsequent project steps - from sizing the target environment and architecture consulting to procurement and implementing the target concept. With the implementation of a PureStorage FlashArray X20 ActiveCluster together with the corresponding Cisco SAN infrastructure, a dedicated Oracle database environment was set up on the data centers at the Ennepetal site, where the high data throughput of the All-NVMe solution [Non-Volatile Memory Express] will deliver the required performance increase.





We are pleased with the good cooperation with Computacenter. The solution runs and offers even more reserves for data growth or other database systems than originally assumed.”

Andreas Biesenbach
IT Database Specialist
Ferdinand Bilstein GmbH + Co. KG

Ferdinand Bilstein GmbH

Ferdinand Bilstein GmbH + Co. KG is a leading global manufacturer and supplier of passenger car and commercial vehicle spare parts in the automotive aftermarket. Under the umbrella of the Bilstein Group, the family-run company combines the febi, SWAG and Blue Print brands and offers a total of more than 62,000 different products for professional vehicle repair. The internationally active group of companies is present in more than 70 countries with over 22 subsidiaries and agencies. Ferdinand Bilstein employs more than 1,100 people at its headquarters in Ennepetal alone.

Outcome

Despite the existing delivery bottlenecks and restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the schedule was maintained and the project was completed on time. Ferdinand Bilstein now has a high availability and high-performance storage platform that exclusively serves requests from the company's Oracle databases.

Overall, Andreas Biesenbach is very satisfied with the new solution: 'We were able to determine that, for example, in the area of data warehousing, the runtimes for long-running processing have almost halved. Even with backups, large processing or other load peaks, the storage systems are not challenged regarding capacity, as the new data reduction functionality [i.e., data compression] has seen storage space reduce by 6 or 7 times compared to previous volumes. Storage utilisation has also been more efficient than the manufacturer promised, and there are now even more reserves available for data growth or other database systems than originally assumed.'

In addition to the massive increase in performance, Ferdinand Bilstein benefits from the reduction in operational effort and the ability to perform environment upgrades much more easily, which has also significantly reduced costs.

More information

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