



Agile cloud platform sees utility provider IBB speed time to market and reduce IT effort and costs

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Customer Name: IBB Energie AG

Industry: Energy supply

Location: Switzerland

Number of Employees: 70

Challenge

- Improve business agility
- Reduce IT effort and costs

Solution

- FlexPod

Results

- Services deployed 30 percent faster with 20 percent uplift in performance
- 50 percent time savings for IT team
- Expected total cost of ownership reduction of 20 percent

Challenge

IBB Energie AG offers connection to life: insuring people have nonstop access to power, natural gas, water, and communications in its supply area. Its subsidiary, Immensys AG, delivers high-speed IP and wireless services through a fiber-optic backbone and a 1200km² wireless LAN, the largest in Switzerland.

Customer choice between electricity suppliers is ever increasing with the second phase of liberalization. The natural gas market is already liberalized for very large customers. To outplay its competitors, it is important for IBB together with selected partners to provide sustainable and user oriented innovations. And, thanks to a forward-looking IT strategy, it's also able to move quickly.

"We have to keep deploying products and services faster and more efficiently. That business guiding principle is down to our data centers, so we regularly refresh their technology," says Hans Spörri, Head of IT (CIO) IBB. "That way we stand out from others and are able to keep our costs low."

Requirements for upgrading its data centers included lower running costs and a single contract network and hardware. The new solution had to offer 10Gbps speeds with an excellent price/performance ratio. And it had to scale for growth.

Solution

Local expert BSR & Partner AG helped IBB plan, implement and design the new infrastructure solution. "We looked at three different architectures," Spörri recalls. "FlexPod was the most consistent and convincing solution. Cisco clearly stood out in terms of usability and performance."

The two IBB data centers are 10km apart. They're linked with Cisco Nexus® switches, enabling data to be mirrored over dark fiber. Cisco blade servers, NetApp storage, and VMware virtualization complete the Cisco FlexPod stack.

Results

Services take 30 percent less time to set up, so IBB is faster to market. The virtual Cisco servers provide more memory and computing power. Application performance has improved by 20 percent, which is good news for Citrix users. Should a server fail or need to be taken down, service is restored in a third of the time previously taken.

“FlexPod was the most consistent and convincing. Cisco clearly stood out in terms of usability and performance.”

Hans Spörri
Head of IT (CIO)
IBB Energie AG

“FlexPod provides certainty,” says Spörri. “It means the business can respond rapidly to changing market conditions without major investment.”

The upgrade is already paying for itself. Data centers cost less to maintain. Other savings include 10 percent on power, 30 percent on cabling, and 20 percent on hardware. Change management, often a hidden expense, is also more efficient. The IT team spends 50 percent less time dealing with change management in the server backbone due to UCS.

Hans Spörri sums up: “We expect total cost of ownership to be reduced by 20 percent over the next five years. Handling and deployment are much easier, and users get a better experience. BSR & Partner AG ensured smooth project realization and implementation to our complete satisfaction.”

For More Information

To learn more about the Cisco solutions featured in this case study, visit www.cisco.com/go/cloud

Product List

Data Center

- FlexPod
 - Cisco UCS® B200 M3 Series Blade Servers with Intel Xeon® E5-2620 processors
 - Cisco UCS 5108 Blade Server Chassis
 - Cisco UCS 6248UP 48-Port Fabric Interconnect
 - VMware vSphere virtualization
 - NetApp FAS2240 storage and SnapMirror

Routing and Switching

- Cisco Nexus 2000 Series Fabric Extenders
- Cisco Nexus 5548P Switch
- Cisco Catalyst 3750-X Series Switches

Management

- Cisco UCS Manager

Applications

- Microsoft Windows Server 2008R2 / 2012R2 and Windows 7
- Microsoft Exchange 2013 DAG Cluster
- Microsoft SQL Server 2008 / 2012
- Oracle Enterprise Server 12
- Citrix 6.5



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