

Blood Service Ensures Supplies Always Get Through



Baden-Württemberg – Hessen German Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service trusts FlexPod for fast and resilient access to vital data

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Customer Name: Baden-Württemberg – Hessen German Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service

Industry: Healthcare

Location: Germany

Number of Employees: 2650

Challenge

- Keep service running around the clock
- Make IT more cost-effective and scalable

Solution

- FlexPod

Results

- Improved speed and uptime by 30 percent
- Reduced virtual hosts from 32 to 10
- Cut costs by 30 percent

Challenge

If you have a serious accident or need general surgery in the Baden-Württemberg – Hessen area of Germany, you may need a blood transfusion. If so, Cisco® data center technology helps Baden-Württemberg – Hessen German Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service ensure your safety.

“When we get new blood, it has to be tested, quality checked, and documented to ensure the data and product are processed under strongly controlled conditions,” explains Jürgen Rocke, head of IT infrastructure. The service has to be able to prove where the blood came from and where it went to: data that needs to be archived for 30 years.

Those processes rely heavily on IT. “If our systems fail, we’re not able to provide blood,” Rocke continues. “So we can’t afford any downtime or data loss. Even 20 minutes could be risky. If there’s a plane crash or a big fire, we have to be able to react immediately.”

That’s why the service opted for the best server products it could find for new main and backup data centers.

Solution

Advised by Cisco Premier Certified Partner, Fritz & Macziol (FUM), the service settled on FlexPod, a converged computing, networking, and storage platform from Cisco and NetApp.

“We did a proof of concept and realized we could cut the number of hosts we use,” says system engineer Sebastian Then. “We found it would be cheaper in terms of power and cooling costs if we changed to FlexPod.”

Within two months, FUM installed a Cisco FlexPod at the main data center in Baden-Baden, and one more at the backup site in Karlsruhe. There was no downtime during the process. The FlexPods use Cisco Unified Computing System™ (Cisco UCS®) servers for virtual hosting systems, which are based on VMware and Microsoft Hyper-V. The data centers house 150 apps, such as Oracle and SAP, accessed over Citrix.



“New virtual servers can be created instantaneously. The system’s highly resilient. And we can handle greater workloads and react more quickly.”

Sebastian Then
System Engineer
Baden-Württemberg – Hessen German Red
Cross Blood Transfusion Service

Results

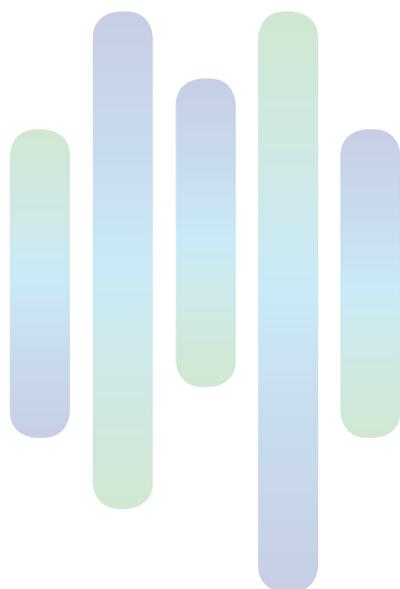
The service so far has not lost data or suffered any downtime. If there is a problem, it can be fixed with a single call. Just in case, two Cisco UCS servers are kept in reserve. These can be used to swap out a faulty blade in a matter of minutes. There is also a service contract through which Cisco can supply new blades within four hours.

With FlexPod, the number of VMware hosts has been cut from 12 to four. For Hyper-V, the number has reduced from 20 to six. This equates to savings on space, cooling, and power. Costs have gone down by approximately 30 percent. Speed and uptime, meanwhile, have improved by about the same amount.

Says Then: “New virtual servers can be created instantaneously. The system’s highly resilient. And we can handle greater workloads and react more quickly.”

For More Information

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



Product List

Data Center

- FlexPod
 - Cisco UCS B200 and B22 M3 Blade Server
 - Cisco UCS 5100 Series Blade Server Chassis
 - VMware
 - Microsoft Hyper-V
 - NetApp FAS3250 Series storage array

Fabric Interconnects

- Cisco UCS 6248UP 48-Port Fabric Interconnect

Applications

- Citrix / Xen Desktop
- Microsoft Applications
- SAP
- Oracle



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