Faster Access to Information and Applications

WGZ BANK delivers workforce mobility and productivity with FlexPod-enabled virtual desktops

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Customer Name: WGZ BANK AG Westdeutsche Genossenschafts-Zentralbank

Industry: Financial services

Location: Germany

Number of Employees: 1200

Challenge
- Better enable workforce mobility and productivity
- Optimize IT management and agility

Solution
- Virtual desktops, delivered using Citrix XenDesktop with FlexPod architecture, providing users with instant access to information and services, including more than 300 applications

Results
- Employees work from any workstation, increasing mobility and productivity
- Improved application performance, with login times cut by over 90 percent
- Reductions in time-to-provision and time-to-recovery, plus savings on cabling and space

Challenge

Westdeutsche Genossenschafts-Zentralbank (WGZ BANK) acts as a central bank for Volksbanken and Raiffeisenbanken, supporting medium sized companies as well as capital market partners in Rhineland and Westphalia. WGZ BANK also helps member banks with refinancing and subsidies as well as syndicated loans.

With the target of becoming the region's leading financing group by 2014, WGZ BANK is always looking to innovate by investing in transformational technologies. "Without intelligent IT solutions, banking could not meet the challenges presented by today's market conditions and regulation," says Jens Becker-Mühlenbrock, authorized representative, organisation and operation IT systems, WGZ BANK.

This forward-looking strategy started when the bank began consolidating and virtualizing a complex, data center landscape with Cisco Unified Computing System™ (UCS®). "We have to provide functional, seamless services," says Becker-Mühlenbrock. "But with a relatively small team this was always a challenge. Life became easier with the introduction of Cisco® UCS because it offered greater integration between compute, networking, and storage."

Delivered as a pre-integrated FlexPod platform, UCS helped improve the performance of VMware virtualization and storage services for Windows, Linux, and IBM AIX operating systems. Not content with these achievements, WGZ BANK decided to develop a virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) strategy, itinitally by enabling 1200 desktops. "We saw VDI as the next innovation and logical extension of FlexPod," Becker-Mühlenbrock says. "Employees would gain from greater mobility and the IT team would benefit from less complexity and cost for desktop management."

Solution

Computacenter, with support and design validation from Cisco Services, helped ensure a short, smooth migration from proof of concept to production. Connecting two Düsseldorf data centers in an active-active setup, the solution includes 24 UCS B230 Series Blade Servers with Intel® Xeon® E7-2800 processors.

"We looked at various options, but FlexPod was the most convincing solution," says Becker-Mühlenbrock. "In total we have replaced about 80 percent of our server estate, and every employee now has a thin client or laptop."

> "Employees can login from any workstation and access all the applications assigned to them. Desktops are managed with one golden image, making it quick and simple to complete software upgrades."

Jens Becker-Mühlenbrock
Authorized Representative, Organisation and Operation IT Systems
WGZ BANK

Desktop virtualization is enabled via Citrix XenDesktop with storage provided by Cisco® MDS 9148 Multilayer Fabric Switches with NetApp FAS6080 and FAS3140 Streched MetroCluster. For networking, the bank selected Cisco Nexus® 5000 Series Switches in the core and Nexus 1000V Series Switches for policy-based management and granular control of VMware vSphere virtual machines.

Results

Moving to FlexPod and virtual desktops has helped WGZ BANK transform workforce mobility. "Employees can login from any workstation and access all the applications assigned to them. Desktops are managed with one golden image, making it quick and simple to complete software upgrades," says Becker-Mühlenbrock. In addition a fast rollback procedure has helped significantly improve security.

FlexPod-enabled virtual desktops have improved application performance and operating system login. "Before, users would wait between three and four minutes for login to complete," Becker-Mühlenbrock says. "Now, it takes no more than 15 seconds. Multiply this time saving by 1200 users, and there's a significant productivity gain."

Through consolidation and virtualization FlexPod has helped reduce cabling and space required in the data center.

The VDI solution ensures that operating systems are always up-to-date and available for the user, in turn drastically reducing the provisioning task. The recent migration to Windows 7 was completed without having to invest in new desktop PCs. In addition, 50 percent savings in energy consumption, comparing desktop PC with thin client, have been achieved.

For More Information

To learn more about Cisco Desktop Virtualization solutions, go to: www.cisco.com/go/vdi

To learn more about the Cisco architectures and solutions featured in this case study, go to: www.cisco.com/go/datacenter

Product List

Data Center Solutions

- FlexPod
  - Cisco UCS B230 Series Blade Servers with Intel Xeon E7-2800 processors
  - Citrix XenDesktop
  - VMware vSphere
  - NetApp FAS6080 and FAS3140 Streched MetroCluster
- Cisco Nexus 5000 and 1000V Series Switches
- Cisco MDS 9148 Multilayer Fabric Switches

Applications

- Microsoft Windows 7 and Office
- Adobe
- Banking applications

ılıılı CISCO™

Americas Headquarters	Asia Pacific Headquarters	Europe Headquarters
Cisco Systems, Inc.	Cisco Systems (USA) Pte. Ltd.	Cisco Systems International BV Amsterdam,
San Jose, CA	Singapore	The Netherlands

Cisco has more than 200 offices worldwide. Addresses, phone numbers, and fax numbers are listed on the Cisco Website at **www.cisco.com/go/offices.**