



Success Story

Server

APA-IT Informations Technologie GmbH

To maintain its position as Austria's leading news agency and support continued growth, APA—Austria Presse Agentur decided to standardize its business processes, supported by SAP ERP solutions. The agency's IT service provider APA-IT Informations Technologie GmbH selected SUSE® Linux Enterprise Server for SAP Applications, enabling it to combine its existing Linux environment with an operating system optimized for SAP software—reducing the cost and complexity of delivering the SAP landscape.



Overview

APA-IT Informations Technologie GmbH is a leading IT service provider to the media industry in Austria. The company is a subsidiary of APA—Austria Presse Agentur, the country's national news agency.

As IT specialists within the group, APA-IT is responsible for operating computing systems for all APA companies and providing IT outsourcing services to a wide range of media companies in Austria, Switzerland and Germany. The company employs 136 people and achieves annual revenues of EUR 21.9 million.

Challenge

To maintain its position as Austria's leading news agency and support continued growth, APA—Austria Presse Agentur

“SUSE Linux Enterprise Server for SAP Applications gives us the peace of mind we need to focus on streamlining how we run our business and explore new business opportunities for managed services.”

MAG. WOLFGANG HAMMEL

Head of Commercial IT Solutions

APA-IT Informations Technologie GmbH

wanted a way to centralize and integrate its business processes and systems, especially in the accounting departments across the various companies in the group.

To meet the challenge, APA decided to replace its highly customized ERP system with a modern solution based on SAP ERP applications. To take advantage of the latest technology and benefit from future releases as soon as possible, the decision was made to stay close to the recommended standard configuration and run SAP ERP powered by the innovative SAP HANA platform.

In order to ensure smooth and reliable business operations, the company needed an operating system that would provide performance and stability without increasing the management and administration workload to keep operating costs low. APA engaged its IT service provider APA-IT Informations Technologie GmbH to find the right platform for its new SAP solutions.

Mag. Wolfgang Hammel, Head of Commercial IT Solutions at APA-IT Informations Technologie GmbH, said, “Our goal was to run SAP ERP as cost-efficiently as possible, with standardized processes across the entire application landscape, which includes SAP ERP applications and SAP HANA databases.”



APA-IT at a Glance:

APA-IT Informations Technologie GmbH is one of the largest IT service providers for the media industry in Austria. A subsidiary of APA—Austria Presse Agentur, APA-IT employs 136 people and achieves annual revenues of EUR 21.9 million.

■ Industry and Location

Computer Services, Vienna, Austria

■ Products and Services

SUSE Linux Enterprise Server for SAP Applications

■ Results

- + Simplified SAP software deployment and maintenance
- + Ensured compatibility with future releases and features
- + Leveraged existing skills, tools and operations processes

“We are very satisfied with SUSE Linux Enterprise Server for SAP Applications. It delivers a very stable platform that helps us to provide central ERP applications reliably to all group companies.”

ING. WOLFGANG CELEDA

System Manager

APA-IT Informations Technologie GmbH

www.suse.com

Solution

APA-IT teamed up with SUSE Gold Partner XIT-cross information technologies to implement its new SAP landscape powered by SAP HANA on SUSE Linux Enterprise Server for SAP Applications.

XIT-cross information technologies provided training to facilitate rapid and smooth deployment of the SAP systems. Ing. Wolfgang Celeda, System Manager at APA-IT Informations Technologie GmbH, said, “We have many years’ experience with Linux, and working with XIT-cross information technologies helped us to hit the ground running with SUSE Linux Enterprise Server for SAP Applications. The team’s expertise enabled us to quickly understand how we can apply our existing Linux knowledge to get the most out of SUSE Linux Enterprise Server.”

APA-IT deployed two pre-configured SAP HANA appliances and created a fully virtualized environment using VMware vSphere virtualization technology to run its SAP ERP application servers. The solution is operated on Cisco Unified Computing System servers, which are replicated across two data centers to support business continuity in an event of disaster.

APA-IT integrated the SUSE Linux Enterprise Server for SAP Application instances into its existing collected open source monitoring framework, minimizing management overheads.

Mag. Wolfgang Hammel said, “After setting up test and development systems and running SAP ERP on SUSE Linux for SAP Applications for a few months, we are convinced that we have made the right choice.”

To deliver CRM capabilities to the group, APA-IT uses the SAP Cloud for Customer solution—an enterprise software-as-a-service offering that also runs on SUSE Linux Enterprise Server.

Results

The close collaboration between SUSE and SAP ensures that the operating system is optimized for use with SAP software. This improves compatibility and guarantees that APA-IT will be among the first who can use new SAP software releases and exploit new, innovative features early on.

Ing. Wolfgang Celeda said, “We are very satisfied with SUSE Linux Enterprise Server for SAP Applications. It delivers a very stable platform with 99,9999 percent availability, helping us to provide central ERP applications reliably to all group companies.”

Thanks to the simple integration of the SAP landscape into the existing IT environment and operations processes, APA-IT obtains the advantages of a finely tuned operating system without adding complexity to its management and maintenance procedures.

Mag. Wolfgang Hammel said, “We selected SUSE Linux Enterprise Server for SAP Applications to be ready for the future. It is adapted specifically toward the needs and requirements of SAP software, so we can be sure that our mission-critical ERP systems run smoothly. Upgrades to new software releases will be easy because of the comprehensive tests done by SUSE and SAP. All this gives us the peace of mind we need to focus on streamlining how we run our business and explore new business opportunities for managed services.”



To read more customer success stories, visit:
www.suse.com/success

Contact your local SUSE Solutions Provider, or call SUSE at:

1 800 796 3700 U.S./Canada
1 801 861 4500 Worldwide

SUSE
Maxfeldstrasse 5
90409 Nuremberg
Germany