Gruppo API

Gruppo API consolidated numerous distributed servers running SAP and other business-critical systems to SUSE® Linux Enterprise Server for System z running on an IBM z10 Enterprise Class mainframe. The solution provides an open, flexible and highly resilient platform that delivers significant cost savings in hardware, software licensing, server management, maintenance and energy.

Overview
Gruppo API is one of the leading players operating in the full downstream oil cycle in Italy. Gruppo API comprises a number of separate companies, providing integrated operations from the production of crude oil through to refining and then to the distribution of oil derivatives in more than 4,100 service stations across Italy. API is also active in energy, producing more than two billion kWh of electricity annually.

Challenge
In preparation for anticipated growth in its business, API wanted to move to an open computing environment that would offer it greater flexibility in its choice of applications. Simultaneously, the company aimed to address the issues of reliability, cost, efficiency, scalability, disaster recovery and ease of management.

“We chose SUSE Linux Enterprise Server for System z in part for the high quality of support available from SUSE, and in part because it was highly recommended by IBM, the market-leader.”

GAETANO SCEBBA
CTO
Gruppo API

Solution
“we wanted to achieve an open environment because this would enable a much wider choice of solutions and vendors,” said Gaetano Scebba, CTO, Gruppo API. “We felt that expanding our use of Linux was the best way to accomplish this.”

API was running core business applications, with a DB2 database, on IBM System z, with its SAP application servers running

Success Story
Enterprise Linux Servers

Gruppo API at a glance:
Major Italian oil company, operating throughout the full downstream cycle and in the generation of electrical energy

Industry and Location
Oil and Energy, Italy

Product and Services
SUSE Linux Enterprise Server for System z

Results
+ Consolidated numerous physical and virtual machines to a single IBM z10 mainframe
+ Gained open, flexible platform for new applications
+ Reduced costs for hardware, software and maintenance
+ Cut floorspace requirements by 15 percent and energy requirements by 35 percent
“For mission-critical applications, SUSE Linux Enterprise Server for System z is an excellent platform, combining openness and stability.”

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Results
Consolidating the bulk of its distributed servers to SUSE Linux Enterprise Server for System z has given API a compact, efficient and resilient infrastructure. Server virtualization has reduced the need to purchase, install and manage dozens of separate physical servers throughout their full lifecycle, reducing floor occupancy in the API data center by 15 percent.

“As well as gaining a more compact infrastructure, we have reduced energy consumption by 35 percent, representing a significant saving in operational costs,” said Scebba. “We will also make savings in software licensing, because the power of the z10 enables us to do more work with a smaller number of processors than in our distributed environment.”

With all mission-critical software running on the z10, API has a single point of control over backup and recovery, simplifying and strengthening its disaster recovery procedures. The new infrastructure also meets API’s goals of greater flexibility and ease of management, while SUSE Linux Enterprise Server for System z provides a stable and open platform for business applications.

“The high performance of SUSE Linux Enterprise Server makes it an effective alternative to UNIX for our SAP application servers and data warehousing solutions (currently SAP BW with IBM InfoSphere Warehouse),” said Scebba. “For mission-critical applications, SUSE Linux Enterprise Server for System z is an excellent platform, combining openness and stability.”