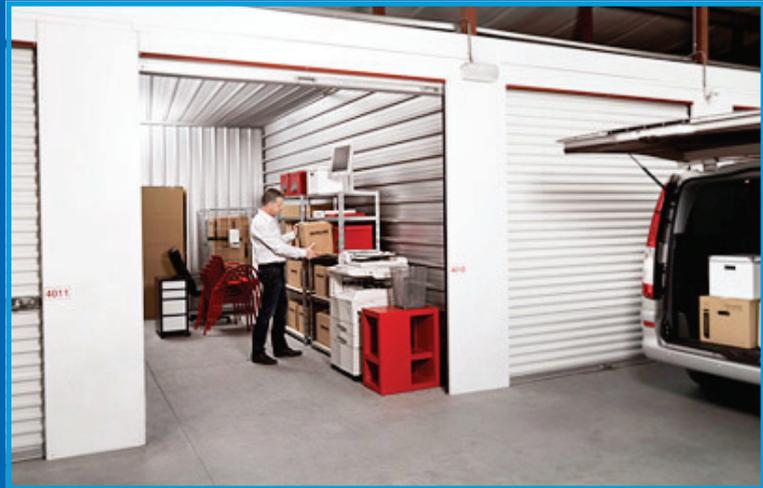


CASE STUDY



Shurgard opts for state-of-the-art digital storage.

Updating and optimising infrastructure makes expansion possible.

SHURGARD
SELF-STORAGE

Shurgard is the European market leader in storage space rental for businesses and private customers. The company has more than 90,000 customers at over 170 sites spread across 7 European countries. The European headquarters of this originally American company are in Brussels. Due to the rapid growth of the business and the associated commercial and financial data, the existing infrastructure was inadequate. Moreover, certain elements had reached the end of their life and were hence no longer under guarantee. Computacenter was brought in to improve the storage and back-up infrastructure with state-of-the-art equipment, suitable for further expansion.

Challenge : Update and optimise storage infrastructure

When Shurgard's computing environment was centralised in 2006, a choice was made in favour of two HP blade servers, connected to an EMC storage system with fibre channel switch (SAN). By 2012, however, the system was in urgent need of updating.

There were a number of limitations, such as lack of flexibility and manageability. Disk space was also at maximum capacity, and backing up was time-consuming because the system was antiquated. In addition, floor space at the primary data centre was being used to the full, and the latest version of the VMWare management software was needed.

Customer agenda

- Continuous Improvement/Innovation
- Cost Reduction
- Growth/Business Change
- Risk Avoidance

Solution

- NetApp FAS 3240
- HP Blade B7000



“This project could have had an enormous impact on Shurgard’s day-to-day operational capacity, but thanks to Computacenter’s skilled guidance, support and expertise, the transition proceeded smoothly and imperceptibly. It was a joined effort that was highly successful.”

Cindy Verhoeven,
Head of Information
System Services
Shurgard

The biggest problem, though, was that part of the storage infrastructure had reached the end of its life, which meant that it was no longer under guarantee and could not count on support from EMC. Together with Shurgard, Computacenter looked around for a flexible, scalable, high-performing, state-of-the-art, easy-to-manage solution.

Solution : NetApp unified storage system

A total of three-quarters of the existing infrastructure at the primary data centre was updated. A decision was made in favour of a NetApp unified storage system, enabling Shurgard to carry on working with the fibre channel already in use. One blade server was replaced by an HP Blade B700 which was connected with the SAN, as a result of which several virtual servers can now run on one blade server.

The EMC Clarion CX3-40 was replaced by a NetApp FAS 3240. In addition, the VMWare management software was upgraded to version 4.1, and a switch was made for daily back-ups with the introduction of CIFS deduplication snapshotting on disk.

A number of reasons lay behind the choice in favour of NetApp. Among other things, it has SnapManager, a program with unique data management capacities for physical and virtual environments. This is important, as the majority of Shurgard’s storage environment is virtualised (97% runs on VMWare). Moreover, communication between the two technologies is smoother than with EMC.

Thanks to the NetApp technology, the blade server can communicate in different protocols (iSCSI, NFS, FC, etc.), which represents an enormous step forward in flexibility: with the EMC solution, it was only possible to communicate in one protocol.

Result : Elimination of risk with state-of-the-art equipment

The starting point in this project was risk management. The installation of state-of-the-art equipment has now completely eliminated the risk, and Shurgard has extra space, thus making further expansion possible. All objectives have therefore been achieved: the infrastructure has been optimised, there is now back-up to disk, there has been a VMWare upgrade, and extra floor space and capacity have been created.

From implementation to migration, the whole project took just two months. Computacenter’s specialists first provided support by configuring the new installation while the old one was still active. Once everything was operational, the final switchover to the new infrastructure took place. Know-how about the new storage infrastructure was imparted to Shurgard’s engineers during the implementation of the new system.

**To discuss how we can help make your business sharper, contact us:
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