



Compaq StorageWorks

FH Joanneum practices what it teaches:
design for growth and reap the benefits

University of Applied Sciences uses scalable, multi-platform Compaq StorageWorks solutions to support business-critical applications for students

“Compaq StorageWorks adheres to the kind of design philosophy that we espouse at our institute. We are very ecologically minded so we like StorageWorks scalability and investment protection – and it handily solves our multiplatform issue,” says Dipl.-Ing. Heimo Kirsch, Leiter EDV, Technikum Joanneum GmbH.

Technikum Joanneum GmbH (FH Joanneum), with headquarters in Graz, Austria, is a leading Austrian university of applied sciences experiencing growing student enrollment. FH Joanneum has two campuses, one located in Graz and the other in Kapfenburg, Austria. Between the two, they have seen steady growth since the Institute's inception in 1995. From a modest beginning of 130 students in 1995, the student body has grown to a projected 1,000 in 1999. The students have their choice of studying industrial design, automotive engineering, construction engineering and management, information management, industrial electronics, industrial management, urban economics and engineering.

The challenge

FH Joanneum faced the universal IT challenge that comes with success: how to scale its computer systems without undue effort and expense. In addition, it faced

the additional responsibility of finding a system that could support multiple platforms and stretch its investment dollars. Planning for reuse and scalability are very solid ecological practices, Dipl.-Ing. Heimo Kirsch, Leiter EDV, FH Joanneum, emphasizes, since it implies savings in materials, production activities, time, and money.

Planning for growth is one of the basic tenants taught to the conscientious students at FH Joanneum. As a practical example of the planning strategies it teaches, the institute searched for a very scalable storage solution. At first glance, it seemed as if FH Joanneum might need two tools, one storage solution for its Compaq NT servers and another for its SGI IRIX servers.

COMPAQ

Better answers

The solution

The answer came with Compaq StorageWorks. "We use a single Compaq StorageWorks RAID Array 7000 to support both our Compaq-based Windows NT and our Silicon Graphics IRIX operating systems," says Mr. Kirsch. "We save significantly by not having to buy two storage platforms. Maintaining one system is always easier and less costly than maintaining two."

The Institute implemented Compaq StorageWorks and it has been operational since 1995 with complete success. Compaq StorageWorks supports two main business critical environments at the institute.

The first, supporting 1,000 users, is the Windows NT environment which runs on two Compaq AlphaServer 7305 systems on a Microsoft Cluster with about 450 attached NT workstations. In this environment, Microsoft Exchange is available for all users and manages the electronic mail system for the entire institute.

The second business-critical environment is comprised of two Silicon Graphics Origin 200 servers running IRIX with IRIS Failsafe 1.2, which supports up to 300 users. These high-end workstations run computer-aided design (CAD) applications to support industrial and automotive design activities. The large, complex CAD files are stored on the Compaq StorageWorks systems.

Backup for both environments is accomplished utilizing a Compaq DLT library resident on the NT system.

INVESTMENT PROTECTION

"We knew that we needed storage that would scale up as quickly as we added new students," recalls Mr. Kirsch. "We began with a StorageWorks RAID Array 450 and recently upgraded to a RAID Array 7000 when the load increase warranted it. Since we are able to use the RAID Array 450 at our Kapfenberg site, we have maintained a 100 percent investment protection while scaling up, as planned."

MULTIPLATFORM SUPPORT

"The fact that StorageWorks supports so many different operating systems, such as SGI, means that we will always have the flexibility to bring in whatever server technology we need to run specialized applications, such as CAD design," says Mr. Kirsch. "In an educational environment where you want to provide the latest to the students, this ability is invaluable."

TOP-OF-THE-CLASS SERVICE

"Compaq Services helped us ensure that the RAID Array performed as advertised on the SGI platform," recalls Mr. Kirsch. "We were especially impressed with the seamless way that the Compaq consultants interfaced with SGI personnel as technical issues arose. There was no finger-pointing – just great teamwork from both companies. We really felt our success was the most important thing to them."

CALL US

To learn how Compaq StorageWorks has helped other companies to achieve their goals, and can help you reach yours, call your authorized representative or visit us at: www.compaq.com/storageworks

"When you think things out and do your homework, it is always profitable," says Mr. Kirsch. "We planned for investment protection. We can interchange our original 4-gigabyte disks with the newer 18-gigabyte disks. StorageWorks modular design is very flexible. And the savings you realize by having one storage system for two platforms is a great benefit. But, to tell the truth," he concludes, "my favorite feature is the simple fact that StorageWorks was delivered, plugged in, turned on, and worked. And it's been working as advertised ever since."

Product names mentioned herein may be trademarks and/or registered service marks of their respective companies. They do not represent an endorsement by Compaq Computer Corporation. This case study was prepared with the cooperation of the company described. The material, however, does not constitute an endorsement of Compaq products by the company.

Compaq believes the information in this publication is accurate as of its publication date; such information is subject to change without notice. Compaq is not responsible for inadvertent errors. Compaq conducts its business in a manner that conserves the environment and protects the safety and health of its employees, customers, and the community.

Compaq, the Compaq logo, OpenVMS, and StorageWorks are trademarks of Compaq Computer Corporation.

Microsoft is a registered trademark and Windows NT is a trademark of Microsoft Corporation. SGI and IRIX are trademarks of Silicon Graphics, Inc.

Printed in U.S.A. ECG0088-0699-A
Rel.# 368/99 06 64 20.0
© Copyright 1999 Compaq Computer Corporation.
All Rights Reserved.