



Spendrups virtualises its IT environment together with IBS

Spendrups Bryggeri AB has been in business for more than 100 years. The large family business currently employs around 1,300 staff. As the next step in a 15-year collaboration, IBS will now replace Spendrup's old IT environment with a dynamic virtual IT environment which will optimise and secure the infrastructure for the future.

Over the years Spendrups' IT environment has become more and more diverse, with several different types of independent HP servers with varying capacities and software. The environment placed heavy demands on administration, maintenance and upgrades in order to be able to function well. Spendrups also wanted to make the IT environment more secure and environmentally friendly.

Spendrups decided to carry out an extensive review of the infrastructure and contacted five different suppliers. In the end it was IBS that was able to offer the most attractive solution – a completely new, dynamic virtual infrastructure – which would also allow Spendrups to utilise the new equipment in the existing environment.

Consequently, Spendrups will now, together with IBS, focus on migrating all applications to the new virtual environment. Spendrups will dictate the pace for this project, and will be able to increase its capacity as required in the future, without having to replace all its existing servers.

"We will now migrate to the new en-

vironment one application at a time. The best thing about choosing a virtual IT environment is that we now have a dynamic environment that can easily grow based on our needs," says Kjell Bjärud, partially responsible for the implementation of Spendrups' new, virtual IT environment.

Maintenance without interruptions

In the past the entire system needed to be shut down whenever Spendrups needed to perform administrative tasks or server maintenance. This maintenance either affected staff working in the application, or the work had to be done during the night to minimise disruption.

"Spendrups now has the ability to perform system maintenance without this affecting the work of the company's employees. The system is very flexible, meaning that applications can be moved to other servers when maintenance is required," says Jörgen Bengtsson, responsible for the new IBS infrastructure.

Reduces the risk of breakdowns

Improving the IT environment both with regard to security and environme-

COMPANY PROFILE

Company name: Spendrups Bryggeri AB

Number of offices: Four subsidiaries and four breweries in Sweden

Business: Beverage company

Products: Beverages; beer, wine, water, soft drinks, cider, juices, coffee, tea, still drinks, spirits

Number of employees: approx. 1,300

Total sales: approx. SEK 2.7 billion in 2008

Website: www.spendrups.se





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ntal impact was another important point in Spendrups' requirement specification. All servers are now completely duplicated in two separate data centres, which safeguards against various types of breakdown. If one of the data centres were to shut down the other would take over, with minimal impact on normal operations. With the help of the Site Recovery Manager, the beverage company is now able to safeguard operations in the event of data being corrupted or lost. If one of its two sites goes down, the Site Recovery Manager ensures that the virtual servers are transferred to the other site.

"We can now easily create a test server where we can, for example, test software upgrades before rolling these out throughout the system. This way we can make sure that everything works the way it should, and minimise the risk of errors and breakdowns," explains Bjärud.

A return on the investment in the new environment

Spendrups will see a return on the investment in the new, virtual IT environment in the form of less time spent on administration and maintenance, lower service costs and lower electricity consumption.

"It is not possible to calculate a return on the investment from a security perspective. Security does not have a price tag until disaster strikes," states Per Westlund, partially responsible for the implementation of Spendrups' new IT environment. "However, we will soon see a drop in our electricity costs, which benefits both us and the environment."

The installation of the new environment progressed very smoothly. Spendrups was using the new system after just three to four weeks. If more server space should be required in the future, the system offers enough flexibility and dynamism to make this an easy task.

"Throughout the implementation period IBS has held a number of tailored courses on the new, virtual IT environment for Spendrups' entire operations group. These courses have been very well received, professional and completely tailored to our requirements," concludes Bjärud. "We are now looking forward to working in a more modern and operation-safe environment."

CHALLENGES:

- Old servers
- Reducing time spent on administration and maintenance
- High electricity consumption
- More stringent demands for disaster recovery

SOLUTIONS:

- New, virtual IT environment where applications can migrate at their own pace

BUSINESS BENEFITS:

- A dynamic IT environment that allows Spendrups to grow
- Increased security with duplicate data centres
- Less administration and IT environment maintenance
- Lower service and electricity consumption costs



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