



Stadt Uster

ATLANTIS REDUCES STORAGE COSTS BY 50% AT SWISS MUNICIPALITY



After deploying a software-defined storage solution from Atlantis Computing, as part of a new virtualised desktop infrastructure, **Stadt Uster** increased its storage capacity by 60%, while cutting its anticipated storage expenditure in half

Stadt Uster is a local authority in Switzerland, responsible for delivering public services for a population of 30,000 people in the city of Uster. It planned to implement a virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) to help it minimise its bandwidth costs and improve the multimedia application experience for 500 IT users, based at fifteen separate administrative and operational offices. Finding the right storage solution for the new VDI was a particular concern for the organisation, as it was already facing challenges in its existing storage area network (SAN). Capacity in the SAN was rapidly running out and the platform was beginning to struggle to deliver the application speed users needed.



CHEAPER THAN FLASH STORAGE

Stadt Uster appointed Comicro-Netsys, one of Switzerland's leading IT services companies, to design, deploy and support its new VDI. As part of the total solution, this trusted partner recommended a software-defined storage product from Atlantis. "We installed a new VDI proof of concept and, from the beginning, everybody was very happy with Atlantis," recalls Rolf Meili, Account Manager at Comicro-Netsys. "It was very fast; it was invisible (no hardware in the rack); it worked without problems; and it was much cheaper than any other flash storage solution that we looked at for the project."

As well as being far more affordable than alternative storage approaches, the Atlantis solution has exceeded Stadt Uster's expectations for reliability. "We are extremely happy with the stability of the Atlantis product," says Harry Rauter, Head of IT at Stadt Uster. "We initially anticipated some issues, but none of them occurred."

CHALLENGES

- Deliver a high performance VDI
- Address capacity restraints in the existing SAN

SOLUTION

- Atlantis USX

"Stadt Uster has freed up 60% more storage in its SAN for its VDI by using Atlantis USX software-defined storage."

*Harry Rauter
Head of IT
Stadt Uster*

60% MORE VDI STORAGE CAPACITY

With its deduplication and compression capabilities, the Atlantis solution has created more capacity in Stadt Uster's existing SAN and removed the imminent need for the organisation to buy additional, expensive storage hardware. Rauter observes that "Stadt Uster has freed up 60% more storage in its SAN for its virtualized desktops by using Atlantis software-defined storage."

Stadt Uster currently consumes 173 GB of storage space for its VDI, but has a further 628 GB available within its existing Atlantis storage solution to meet the organisation's future needs. "Our VDI storage requirements are increasing by around 10-20% per year, and Atlantis gives us the flexible capacity to meet this demand," says Rauter.

50% REDUCTION IN STORAGE COSTS

Stadt Uster estimates that the use of Atlantis products reduced its expenditure on IT storage by 50% in the first year, as it didn't have to invest in additional RAM or extend its SAN to support the needs of users. The organisation requires just 400 GB RAM to run the Atlantis solution on four hosts, instead of the 4.75 TB RAM that would otherwise be needed for flash storage.

Having made some thorough calculations, Rauter says, "Taking into account the cost of the Atlantis maintenance licenses, we expect to save over 30,000 Swiss francs in the first three years," a figure that roughly equates to \$31,000 US dollars.

A HIGH PERFORMANCE VDI

Working as part of the complete VDI environment, the Atlantis storage product helps to improve performance for users, making the remote desktops "faster than locally installed machines," according to Rauter. "The increase in performance is being noticed by our users and we are receiving positive feedback."

This performance improvement means that municipal departments can now make greater use of multimedia systems. For instance, the town's infrastructure maintenance team can easily share videos captured by robots that crawl through drains to record the condition of underground pipes. The new VDI has also enabled Stadt Uster to introduce a 'bring your own device' (BYOD) strategy, which is proving particularly useful for the town's police officers who now use iPad devices to view town and crime data while on the beat.



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Wohnstadt am Wasser

BENEFITS

- 60% additional capacity freed up in SAN
- Anticipated VDI storage costs reduced by 50%
- Fast application speed delivered for users, enabling greater use of multimedia applications and BYOD
- Improved storage scalability to handle a 10-20% annual increase in VDI storage requirements
- A stable, well supported storage platform

VIRTUALISED IT ENVIRONMENT

- VMware Horizon View
- VMware vSphere
- VMware ESX servers
- Atlantis USX software-defined storage
- Thin clients
- Tablets including 24 iPads

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Head of IT
Stadt Uster

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