SCA

Centralize a business critical production application

Company Profile

Industry
Manufacturing

Founded
1929

Employees
52.000

Annual Sales
EUR 11.5 bn (2008)

Business Areas
Personal Care
Tissue
Packaging
Forest Products

Web Site
www.sca.com

SCA started a project aiming to centralize the production application Plain. The goal of this project was to reduce the costs and the amount of administration for each instance of Plain.

Today all Plain installations are scattered over the world; the aim is to centralize as many instances of Plain as possible to a central server in Gothenburg without losing functionality.

This will lower the cost for running Plain considerably. In order to achieve this result, they elected to use the terminal server solution ThinLinc.

One business critical application

Plain is a very central application in the production of SCA. Today there are 22 separate servers in 22 places around the world. The system has 800 concurrent users, it is integrated with Oracle and SAP and there are 22 different backup stations. From the beginning, Plain ran in a HP-UX environment.

The new Plain configuration consists of a central server cluster and a central ThinLinc cluster. "Thanks to this we can use one backup station, one tape robot, and centralize software licenses. Changes, maintenance work and administration takes place in a single place, which leads to great savings in time and capital" says Jan Gustavsson.

Big advantages with ThinLinc

"ThinLinc as system can be scaled very well, you can easily upgrade the number of clients without having to do difficult re-installations. It is more pure in its architecture and has a very high degree of security compared to the competitors" says Jan.

"In the project we tested both Citrix and Microsoft Terminal Server. ThinLinc's functionality came out good with its load balancing and the high availability. Price wise, ThinLinc is way below the competitors" Jan continues.

Directory Integration

"One of the reasons we chose ThinLinc is its excellent integration with Microsoft's Active Directory. With Active Directory we set all rights for the users in SCA's network. Today SCA's Active Directory environment consists of 35.000 units. We have 25.000 end users in 50 countries, spread out over 600 places. We have more than 9.5 million remote connections per month" says, Jan. "The stability of ThinLinc enables us to introduce it into our existing environment without any problems", Jan states.

Positive response

"Today we can open up a new factory with Plain users in 2 days, instead of 2-3 months as was the case earlier. This brings enormous advantages, the time to market is no problem today!" says Jan.

"The total calculation with ThinLinc means we reach pay-off in the project after 6 months" Jan concludes.

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> Jan Gustavsson
> IT Manager
> SCA Hygiene Products AB