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IT System Administrator
Betonwerk Godelmann KG*



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INDUSTRY Services: Construction

SOLUTIONS *Virtualization, Modular Platform, Green Solutions*
Hardware — Hitachi Adaptable Modular Storage 2100
Software — Hitachi Data Protection Suite, powered by CommVault®
Services — Conception and implementation services provided by Hitachi TrueNorth Channel Partner EDV-BV

Godelmann Paves the Way to Successful Future Business with Modern Data Center Technology

Betonwerk Godelmann KG specializes in the production and sales of paving stones. In an effort to ensure that the company's IT department can keep pace with the growth in its business, the IT managers decided to completely upgrade their data center. The key element in this transition was the midrange Hitachi Adaptable Modular Storage 2100 from Hitachi Data Systems, the conception and implementation of which was taken on by Hitachi TrueNorth Channel Partner EDV-BV.

The history of mankind's development is closely linked with stone; just think of flint or the culturally significant Rosetta Stone, which first enabled the translation of ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs. The Rosetta Stone is now in the British Museum in London and paving stones from Godelmann can be found in many countries throughout continental Europe.

Situated in northern Bavaria, Godelmann was able to make a name for its stone products, and it now supplies all of the region's well known, large hardware stores. Since its founding in 1947, the number of employees has grown from 5 to more than 200. The selection of products has grown considerably over the years, and it now ranges from paving stones, steps and landings to individual specialized components made of concrete.

Any company that provides manufacturers construction materials that shape the surroundings for decades has a responsibility toward the environment. The wide selection of eco-friendly paving systems that Godelmann offers is the result of production that saves resources and protects the environment. External and internal test centers monitor the consistent adherence to this high requirement. With its membership in "natürlichSTEIN" in 1996, Godelmann set the standard for the future.

IT Challenges for Godelmann

With the growth of the business, the need for an adequate technological infrastructure also became apparent. Of course, Godelmann has a modern enterprise resource planning (ERP) system and other applications, such as Microsoft® Exchange.

But the systems these applications were running on were no longer capable of guaranteeing reliable operation. For complete backups, a generous time frame of an entire weekend was available, but this was hardly adequate for a complete backup. In addition, the network attached storage (NAS) filer had reached its limits in terms of capacity. Godelmann therefore rather urgently needed new hardware in order to keep its systems and its business running.

Thanks to farsighted planning, the company was never in a precarious situation, but it had reached a point which made it clear that something had to be done; for example, the ERP system, although powerful enough on its own, was not fully available due to the bottlenecks on the hardware side of things.

Planning the Solution

The requirements for the new storage landscape were clear to Godelmann IT System Administrator Daniel Piehler: "For the period following the end of the lifespan of our old systems, we decided on a sustainable, future oriented concept. The most important aspect in this decision was the data backup capability, but also an increase in performance and the use of virtualization technology." The EDV-BV system house prepared that concept. After examining a plan that consisted of stopgap measures, Godelmann decided on a long term concept, which was in keeping with its own philosophy on long term cost-effectiveness.



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Providing a Basis for Gaining Benefits with Hitachi Storage

Thanks to the powerful Hitachi Adaptable Modular Storage 2100 system, it was possible to implement the desired virtualization via VMware without sacrificing performance or causing bottlenecks. The backup is now being taken on by Hitachi Data Protection Suite, powered by CommVault®. Two ESX servers are backed up to disk via backup agents along with the images of the virtual machines.

Godelmann also virtualized the backup server as per the concept from EDV-BV. Since the company has also switched over to fast Fibre Channel switches, the backup can be done directly on tape via Fibre Channel. To make this procedure possible, the tape drives were looped through to the virtual backup machine. In this way, a total of 5TB of data are managed, of which 3TB are allotted to the backup. The Hitachi product works extremely well with the NAS filer, which Godelmann procured from another manufacturer.

Thanks to the architecture of the Adaptable Modular Storage, Godelmann was also able to save precious space in the server room: whereas the live data is on SAS disks, SATA disks are used for the backup and occupy only a single shelf.

“We now only need about half the space,” says Piehler. Further, this allowed Godelmann to reduce its need for air conditioning and electricity. In addition to reducing the costs, the new design supports eco-friendliness.

“Of course, the most important thing for our business remains the enormous jump in capacity and performance,” Piehler explains. Expressed in numbers, this means a reduction of the backup time from approximately 30 hours to approximately 7 hours.

“Thanks to the Adaptable Modular Storage 2000 family, important technologies such as the high performance active-active controller with its real load balancing are also coming to the midrange market for small to medium-sized companies,” explains Director of Commercial Sales at Hitachi Data Systems, Siegmund Kaminski. “Our partners can benefit from this transfer of technology ‘from above’ just as much as the end customer can from its use.”

In addition to the results, the process was also able to convince Piehler. “The concept that EDV-BV worked out with Hitachi Data Systems has worked exactly as it was supposed to. This means: sensible planning, problem free migration and successful results.”

A technician from Hitachi Data Systems accepted the system after the implementation was completed and the system has been running stable and fast ever since. This is expected to remain the case for quite a while.

For the long term, Godelmann is relying on the design with the Adaptable Modular Storage 2100 as the core. In addition, an even further reaching virtualization plan is in the works. With this, Godelmann is well equipped to ensure the company’s success on the IT side of things as well.

About EDV-BV

EDV-BV is a very successful system house in Germany's Upper Palatinate. Its top priority areas include consolidation, energy costs, working with large volumes of data, security and disaster scenarios.

The company relies on innovative technologies and strategically important manufacturers. EDV-BV considers Hitachi Data Systems to be a very important partner due to its leadership in its technological field.

Teamwork at EDV-BV means that ordinary people can achieve extraordinary results. The company never loses sight of the wishes of the customer and the employees.

For more information, please visit www.edv-bv.de.

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