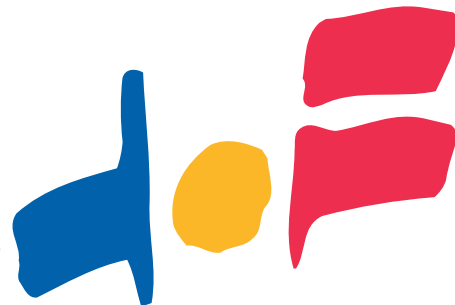


IT MANAGERS IN THE TOWN OF HOF'S  
MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT  
OPTED FOR VIRTUALISED IT INFRASTRUCTURE  
AND PUT THEIR FAITH IN DATA RECOVERY  
PROVIDED BY VIZIONCORE vRANGER PRO™



HOF IN BAYERN  
GANZ OBEN

# vizioncore™

## THE SITUATION

The specific trigger for implementing virtualisation was the upgrade of the administration department's key Oracle database from version 8 to version 10. The newer version was no longer supported on older hardware and a number of other servers were also nearing end of life, so a significant investment was required to modernise the hardware infrastructure. The organisation looked at a number of ways of optimising the use of their new hardware, including virtualizing the new servers.

## THE SOLUTION

After attending an event held by VMware, Vizioncore and DataCore, the IT department's project team, headed up by Gerd Schmidt, set about implementing virtualisation. The implementation was designed to offer the maximum cost-efficiency in server operations through the optimal use of resources and also to ensure a high degree of availability. So that data back-up and restoration tasks can be done without any disruption, the decision was taken to use products from Vizioncore. The entire back-up and restore process for the VMware environment is automated by vRanger Pro.

## THE RESULTS

"We have previously worked with VMware Consolidated Back-up (VCB) in order to backup our virtual machines. This resulted in us constantly having to enter the command line in order to carry out our backup processes. By using vRanger Pro from Vizioncore the process is much simpler and more effective. We are delighted to have opted for Vizioncore in this area."

Gerd Schmidt  
Head of the IT Department  
Hof

"What most impressed me was the file restore functionality. You can't back-up data faster and more conveniently."

Gerd Schmidt, Technical Head of the IT department  
of the town of Hof

Hof is one of the most northerly towns in Bavaria. Lying at the junction of the three German free states of Bavaria, Saxony and Thuringia and the Egerland region of the Czech Republic, it is set amongst the delightful countryside of the Central German Uplands of the Fichtelgebirge mountains and the Franconian Forest on both sides of the Saxon Saale river.

The IT department of Hof municipal administration deals with both the installation and maintenance of the some 450 client PCs and with the provision of all the applications – around 100 in total - required to perform day to day administrative procedures. These include all the tasks that have to be dealt with by a self-governing town of this size, such as citizens' administration, vehicle registration, finance, HR management, youth and social services procedures, geographical information and many more.

## THE STARTING SITUATION

The specific trigger for implementing virtualisation was the upgrade of the administration department's key Oracle database from version 8 to version 10. The newer version was no longer supported on older hardware and a number of other servers were also nearing end of life, so a significant investment was required to modernise the hardware infrastructure. The organisation looked at a number of ways of optimising the use of their new hardware, including virtualising the new servers.

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## THE IDEA

After attending an event held by VMware, Vizioncore and Datacore, the IT department's project team, headed up by Gerd Schmidt, set about implementing virtualisation. The aim was to generate a stable virtual IT infrastructure that supported the production environment and the demilitarised zone (DMZ). The implementation was designed to offer the maximum cost-efficiency in server operations through the optimal use of resources and also to ensure a high degree of availability. The implementation would also help provide a future-proofed IT infrastructure that would support any growth required by Hof's administration department. Initially, the town of Hof deployed two VMware Infrastructure 3 instances that were very soon complemented by three more hosts. These are currently being updated to ESX 3.5..

## THE RESULT

The IT environment of the town of Hof comprised around 35 servers before the virtualisation. Five ESX servers, two proprietary systems and three HP DL 380 devices now form the basis for two virtual clusters both for internal network applications and for the DMZ. Approximately 70 per cent of the organisation's physical servers have been virtualised, resulting in 30 virtual machines (VM). This figure will undoubtedly increase further in the foreseeable future. Applications such as the Oracle database, MS-SQL server and a Citrix solution for approx. 15 clients are run on the virtual machines. There is also space for an Exchange server with 500 mailboxes, a Blackberry server and numerous administrative applications. 'We have previously worked with VMware Consolidated Back-up (VCB) in order to backup our virtual machines,' explained Gerd Schmidt, Head of the IT department in the town of Hof. 'This resulted in us constantly having to enter the command line in order to carry out our backup processes. By using vRanger Pro from Vizioncore the process is much simpler and more effective. We are delighted to have opted for Vizioncore in this area.'

## THE SOLUTION

So that data back-up and restoration tasks can be done without any disruption, the decision was taken to use products from Vizioncore. The entire back-up and restore process for the VMware environment is automated by vRanger Pro.

## THE SUCCESS

The complete virtual infrastructure - currently totalling around 30 VMs and 300 GB - is backed-up every weekend, archived every 4 weeks and can thus be quickly restored in the event of a disaster. 'Although we have only had to go into action once so far after a print server crash, with the vRanger we are prepared for any contingency,' said Schmidt, head of the Technology functional area of the IT department of the town of Hof.



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