



## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

INDUSTRY: MANUFACTURING

**CHALLENGE**

- Create a more robust and flexible SAP solutions-based environment
- Reduce ongoing maintenance overhead
- Ensure reliable IT infrastructure for remote sites
- Provide enhanced DR capabilities

**SOLUTION**

- VMware Infrastructure 3 provides robust and scalable platform for SAP software deployment

**RESULTS**

- Accelerated provisioning, simplified management and improved disaster recovery

**VMWARE AT WORK**

VMware Infrastructure 3 Enterprise Edition featuring:

- VMware ESX 3.5
- VMware VirtualCenter 2
- VMware VMotion

*“Moving our SAP deployment on to VMware Infrastructure has made it easier to deliver a higher level of service to the business than was previously possible. We have moved our entire SAP environment onto VMware and our lives are now significantly easier. We spend far less time performing upgrades and maintenance tasks, and our service delivery processes are incredibly streamlined.”*

Michael Nogger, IT Operations Manager Europe  
Checkpoint Systems International GMBH

## SAP Solutions on VMware Infrastructure Pass Checkpoint Test

Checkpoint Systems International is a leading manufacturer and marketer of identification, tracking, security and merchandising solutions for the retail industry and its supply chain. Checkpoint has around 3,800 members of staff globally and is headquartered in the United States. Its European operations are run from Heppenheim in Germany and the IT team based at this location provides services for around 750 users at 18 sites.

Checkpoint relies heavily on its SAP ERP deployment to produce, sell, ship and invoice its products in a controlled manner. The mission-critical SAP modules were previously deployed on standalone physical servers which were clustered in order to protect them against downtime. Though availability was not a day to day problem under this setup, maintenance and upgrades to both the software and hardware platforms were proving to be a particular headache for the IT team.

Concerned at the time being devoted to maintaining its clustering solution, and also frustrated at the time required to provision new SAP systems, IT operations manager Michael Nogger and his team began to look at implementing a virtual infrastructure for the organization's SAP systems in order to deliver the levels of availability and flexibility required by the business.

Nogger and his team had previous experience of virtualization, having run Lotus Notes on a VMware platform since 2005. “We were already aware of the value that VMware could deliver and were keen to extend the increased manageability and reliability of the platform to our SAP environment,” he explained.

Having assessed the various ways of migrating to a virtual infrastructure, Nogger and his team decided that the best way forward would be to take a phased approach to the switch, moving SAP application servers off their existing physical platforms as the leases on those pieces of hardware expired.

This phased deployment lasted around eighteen months, with the organization waiting for SAP to announce full support for its applications running on VMware Infrastructure before virtualizing the two most critical instances of its SAP implementation – the central database and the central ERP instance.

“SAP’s announcement of support for VMware was a really important step,” said Nogger. “We are absolutely comfortable with the VMware platform, but the support statement gave the business the extra peace of mind it required to take the final steps towards a completely virtualized SAP deployment.”

With its deployment fully virtualized, Checkpoint now has 20 SAP servers running on VMware Infrastructure 3 at its primary site, of which 9 are critical production servers. For disaster recovery purposes the organization has three VMware ESX hosts at its secondary site, which can be used to restore the production SAP environment in the event of a serious failure at the primary datacenter. “Our new DR capabilities are a crucial part of our implementation and really allow us to be more responsive to the needs of our business,” said Nogger.

The IT team is now looking at extending its use of VMware Infrastructure to allow for centralized management of on-site servers at its manufacturing locations.

*“Any company using SAP will tell you that reliability and manageability are two of the key points they look for from any supporting platform they choose. VMware is certainly our platform of choice; in terms of reliability we have a very robust infrastructure which is currently delivering 99.5% uptime for our critical systems. As far as manageability is concerned, running SAP on VMware means our IT department spends far less time on mundane maintenance tasks and can focus on more strategic projects.”*

Michael Nogger, IT Operations Manager Europe  
Checkpoint Systems International GMBH

## Results (Bullet points and some details)

- 8:1 server consolidation ratio
- 34% reduction in power and cooling costs
- Resource utilization increased from 15% to 70%
- Provisioning times reduced from 4-6 weeks to 1 hour
- Accelerated disaster recovery at secondary site
- Ability to deliver on agreed internal SLAs
- More flexibility for further centralization of IT operations

### DEPLOYMENT ENVIRONMENT

- SAP ERP R3 v4.6c
- Oracle 9 Database
- VMware Infrastructure 3
- HP ProLiant DL385
- HP ProLiant DL585
- HP ProLiant BL685
- HP EVA6000 – 10.5TB
- HP EVA4100 – 5TB

### VIRTUALIZED PRODUCTION APPLICATIONS

- SAP ERP
- SAP Business Information Warehouse
- SAP CRM
- SAP Human Resources Management Systems
- SAP Solutions Manager

### VIRTUALIZED PRE-PRODUCTION APPLICATIONS

- SAP ERP
- SAP Business Information Warehouse
- SAP CRM
- SAP Human Resources Management Systems
- SAP Solutions Manager

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