

Grundfos about:

Effective server consolidation

Grundfos is consolidating its 92 global data centres into three – without any negative impact on performance

This comprehensive transformation of the global IT infrastructure at Grundfos has been brought about by the company's desire for greater efficiency, data security and standardisation. Following successful pilot testing of Riverbed Steelhead and SteelFusion, Grundfos is now in the middle of conducting a major server consolidation and planning exercise that will reduce the number of data centres worldwide from 92 server rooms to just three data centres. Not only will the performance be on a par with before, the company will achieve significant savings. Grundfos has 14,000 IT users, spread over 83 companies, 280 locations and 56 countries. A feature of Grundfos over the years has been its complex IT structure, and for this reason in 2008 the Group's IT managers launched a comprehensive transformation of its IT services. The first step was to standardise the overall global infrastructure. Currently, Grundfos is midway through Phase Two, which will see its 92 data centres consolidated into just three – in the USA, Singapore and Bjerringbro, respectively. What is more, the users are not noticing any deterioration in performance whatsoever. "We need a single standardised infrastructure if we are to increase the efficiency of the range of our IT solutions. For this reason, in 2014 we initiated a major project with RanTek, which is all about consolidating our 92 server rooms. Many of the servers were ready for replacement, but with WAN optimisation and server planning we were facing the prospect of being able to reduce the number to 20 server rooms," says Morten Bacher Mortensen, Programme Manager, Group IS Project Management Office, Grundfos.

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Morten Bacher Mortensen, Programme Manager, Group IS Project Management Office, Grundfos.

"When we then found during pilot testing that we could reduce this to just three global data centres, it was quite overwhelming. This is an additional benefit to us and confirms the fact that we have chosen the right solution and a strong partner," he says. Same performance after closedown of servers Grundfos has previous experience of WAN optimisation, but is looking for a solution in future that will be able to accelerate and optimise at the highest possible level. The success criterion for Grundfos is to maintain the same performance and low response times that the global locations have previously enjoyed. This requires the best solution on the market. "After extensive research, our interest fell on Riverbed, which through WAN optimisation and SteelFusion server planning ensures that the users do not notice the consolidation at all – no matter where in the world physical servers are being closed down," explains Morten Bacher Mortensen. "First, we did one month's testing at Bjerringbro, and then did three months at six different locations worldwide with differing technical setups. Pilot testing went well. We could see straight away that it was working. The additional pressure created by going from a local to a global setup was offset by the increased efficiency. We therefore pressed ahead with the rollout right away," he says.

Significant annual savings

Grundfos expects to complete the global rollout of Riverbed Steelhead and SteelFusion in the summer of

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2016, but has already closed servers in the USA, Canada, Italy, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Mexico, China and a number of South American countries. The building of the third and final global data centre in Singapore was completed in February 2015. *“We’re in the middle of the rollout now, and things have moved quickly and professionally. Everyone is very happy with the products from Riverbed,”* he says. For Grundfos, Riverbed Steelhead and SteelFusion offer obvious benefits. *“We gain a streamlined infrastructure and an IT performance comparable to that from local servers. Our data are no longer spread to the four winds, but rather gathered in just three locations and protected against theft, floods and fire, for example. And, finally, there are the major financial benefits and ROI in just two years,”* Morten Bacher Mortensen explains.

Long-term collaboration

RanTek has been an able sparring and collaborative partner for Grundfos and will play an important role until rollout is complete in all countries in 2016 as well as beyond, as RanTek will support the overall solution. *“RanTek has worked really effectively. We’ve done a lot of sparring with them, and the knowledge they have of the product is important to us. Grundfos is a major Group with a complex infrastructure, so this requires a major effort from everyone,”* says Morten Bacher Mortensen, adding that RanTek has delivered and supplied all the boxes worldwide and taken charge of all shipments and customs clearance. *“This is a pure practicality in the partnership, but one of vital importance. It makes some processes easier for us and provides us with reassurance that RanTek has its finger on everything that’s sent and installed onsite at locations worldwide. This is of great value to us,”* he concludes.

Challenges

Grundfos wants increased efficiency, data security and standardisation of its global IT infrastructure, and for several years the company has been working on a comprehensive transformation of its IT services. Rather than having 92 independent server rooms throughout the world, Grundfos has chosen to consolidate these into just three data centres – at Bjerringbro, in the USA and in Singapore.

Solution

Grundfos has signed an agreement with RanTek for the purchase, delivery and installation of Riverbed Steelhead WAN boxes and a SteelFusion virtualisation solution for approx. 200 locations at global level. The agreement includes all consignment and customs clearance, support and service, and advice and training. All together at global level.

Result

Grundfos achieves a streamlined IT infrastructure, easy administration and data processing with the consolidation and securing of data. IT performance corresponds to that of an environment of local servers, and the around 14,000 IT users worldwide notice no adverse impact on speed. Riverbed Steelhead and SteelFusion will provide Grundfos with significant annual savings and enable the company to achieve its ROI in two years.

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