

Virtualization of Citrix XenApp – TROST AUTO SERVICE TECHNIK SE's IT Roadmap to the Future.

Overview

■ The Challenge

Rising numbers of users, new applications, and release changes: The Citrix XenApp server farm of TROST AUTO SERVICE TECHNIK SE (TROST) must deal with continuously rising capacity demands. Solving this by adding dedicated servers to the farm would mean linear growth of costs for energy, space, and hardware in the data center. The deployment of more powerful server systems also turns out to be uneconomical: the 32-bit limitation of TROST applications would mean that the performance capability of new hardware would not be exploited as it should.

■ The Solution

IBM and TROST successfully tested the innovative virtualization solution with Citrix XenServer, where a number of virtual servers run in parallel on a physical, more powerful 64-bit server system.

■ The Benefits

Citrix XenServer enables vertical scaling, which achieves the desired growth in capacity in conjunction with significant savings in space and hardware costs. As a side-effect, IT becomes greener, meaning a noticeable reduction in CO₂, power and cooling requirements. The parallel execution of several virtual servers also balances out the peak and idle times of individual servers, leading to a more efficient use of hardware resources.

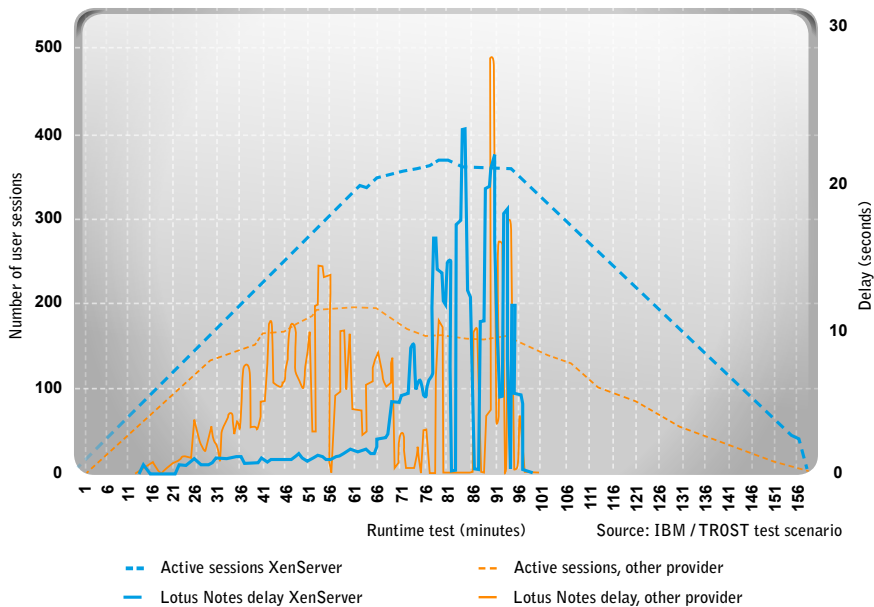


IT Challenges of an expanding Company.

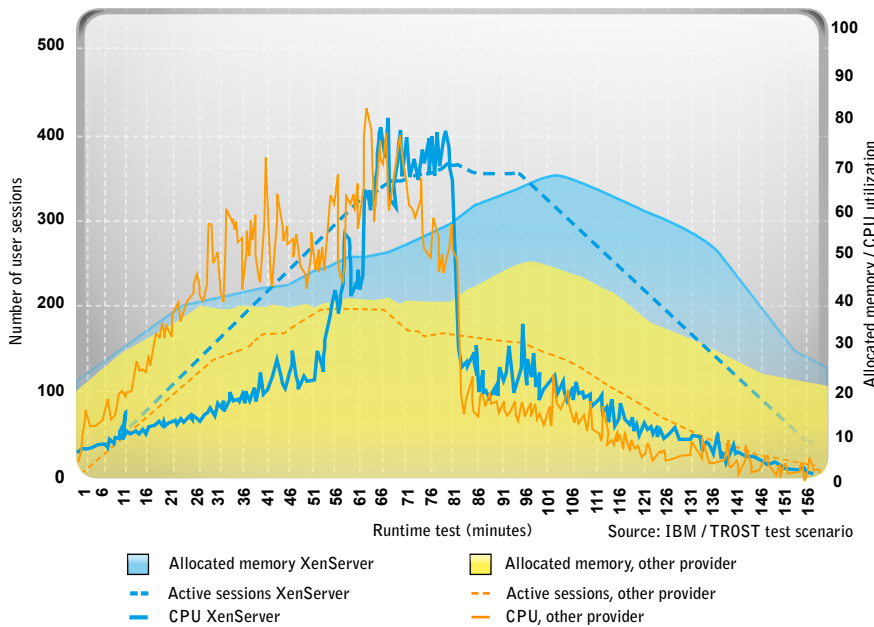
TROST operates as a wholesaler of vehicle parts and as a provider of repair services. The core territory of the company and its 4,000 employees is Germany. Here, TROST provides customers, among others, with the brands „Meine Werkstatt“ (My Garage), „Autofit“, and „Truckfit“. The company has also been operating in six Eastern European countries since 2008. The core of TROST IT architecture is the IBM data center in Ehningen, Germany, where IBM operates a Citrix XenApp farm which hosts approx. 80 applications (16-bit and 32-bit) for approximately 1,200 users.

Citrix XenServer in Benchmark Test.

A benchmark test was used to evaluate the performance of XenServer compared to the product of a further software vendor. The test, executed on two identical IBM x 3850 M2 systems, was based on a simulation of client-specific load profiles for relevant applications such as Microsoft Excel and Word, web applications, Lotus Notes, SAP, Acrobat Reader, and others. Measurement and evaluation of several identical test runs in both virtualization environments of XenServer and the other vendors' product showed a clear result: XenServer proved itself with nearly double performance.



Logged-on users and delay with Lotus Notes



Logged-on users, memory, and CPU utilization

„The innovative approach of the server virtualization and the strong performance of XenServer convinced us and we will proceed along this path. This project helps TROST to face future IT challenges and market conditions. This approach provides the basis for continued reliable and cost-optimized access and IT operation of our central hosting solution.”

(Peter Ohlig, CIO TROST AUTO SERVICE TECHNIK SE)



IBM Deutschland GmbH
Pascalstrasse 100
70569 Stuttgart
ibm.com/de

IBM Österreich
Obere Donaustrasse 95
1020 Wien
ibm.com/at

IBM Schweiz
Vulkanstrasse 106
8010 Zürich
ibm.com/ch

The IBM home page can be found at ibm.com

IBM, the IBM logo, ibm.com and Lotus Notes are trademarks or registered trademarks of International Business Machines Corporation in the United States, other countries, or both. If these and other IBM trademarked terms are marked on their first occurrence in this information with a trademark symbol (® or ™), these symbols indicate U.S. registered or common law trademarks owned by IBM at the time this information was published. Such trademarks may also be registered or common law trademarks in other countries. A current list of IBM trademarks is available on the Web at „Copyright and trademark information“ at ibm.com/legal/copytrade.shtml. Microsoft, Windows, Microsoft Software and Excel are trademarks of Microsoft Corporation in the United States, other countries or both. SAP and R/3 are trademarks of the SAP AG.

Other company, product and service names may be trademarks, or service marks of others.

© Copyright IBM Corporation 2009
All Rights Reserved.

IBM Form GTC03018-DEEN-01 (03/2009)

Also convincing is the Cost Analysis.

The decision for virtualization with XenServer enables TROST to exploit not only technological advantages but also considerable cost-saving potential. The significantly lower-cost Citrix solution also includes software maintenance for one year. Depending on configuration of servers, this results in a savings potential of up to 55 % (suggested retail price) as far as software license and software management costs are considered.

A new Milestone in a Partnership of many Years' standing.

The results of the benchmark test and the cost analysis led to a clear decision in favor of virtualization with XenServer. This means that the ten-year collaboration between TROST and IBM and the IBM partner Citrix has been extended by another innovative project.