

INTERSNACK FRANCE

The German group Intersnack is number 2 in the European market for crisps and salty savoury nibbles (Vico, Curly, Crunchips, Monster Munch and own-label brands). Intersnack in France is the leader in this country's market.



EXPECTED BENEFITS

- 24/24, 7/7 Monitoring
- Immediate recovery in the event of an incident
- Security of EDI transmissions
- Server administration optimization

ENSURING AVAILABILITY AND CONTINUITY OF SERVICE

The context

Three years ago, Intersnack France concentrated its French industrial activities in Vic-sur-Aisne. At the time, the decision to streamline the industrial facilities was preceded by the implementation of a new IT tool.

The problems

In 2008, the primary concern for the IT service was to constantly be able to oversee the company's entire information flow. In order to guarantee that this service functioned correctly, it was necessary to implement a solution that delivered permanent availability and allowed any failures to be anticipated. In case of any IT failure that would cause an interruption of service, the solution had to provide almost instant failover to a redundant system. This is because, from March to October every year, production is operational 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. In a second phase, it was decided to improve the security of all

the EDI transmissions on the same basis.

In 2011, the third stage was to optimise the monitoring and administration of the server pool.

THE SOLUTION

In order to meet such criteria as maintaining continuous information flow and EDI communications, NEC chose to put forward its FaultTolerant server.

- Because NEC's FaultTolerant server comprises of two servers running in parallel, all the components are redundant. If a component of one of the modules fails, the other automatically takes over without any interruption of service.
- The Express Report software program allows any incidents to be anticipated beforehand by generating an alert that is fed back to the NEC support centre and the Intersnack IT service. For example, if a hard disk shows signs of weakness, an alert is activated and NEC support can initiate preventive maintenance measures and replace the hard disk before it fails completely. This level of security virtually guarantees that the system is available permanently.

The remote monitoring function for the Vic-sur-Aisne site that is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, has removed the burden from the system monitoring teams.

• Lastly, with the aim of facilitating the administration and supervision of the server pool while reducing costs for support and maintenance, Intersnack for virtualization. By deploying VMware on the FaultTolerant servers in an overhauled infrastructure based around the NEC range, the IT service was ensuring reliability, homogeneity and security.





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Ref.: Brochure - EN / Intersnack October 2011

THE COLLABORATION WITH NEC

- Satisfied with how the NEC solution was running on the Vic-sur-Aisne site, in 2010 Intersnack France decided to equip the IT site of the French headquarters with an identical configuration, consisting of a Fault Tolerant server and a D3-10 storage array in a VMware environment. This new architecture hosts both business and industrial applications.
- From the start, all the NEC infrastructures used were implemented by technical teams from the manufacturer. The customer is very pleased to have this direct link with the designers of the solution.
- As well as the functionality offered by the NEC solution, Intersnack France appreciates the reliability of the systems. In 2 years, there has been only one technical incident on a D3-10 array, where one hard disk failed.

Details of the solution provided

Vic-sur-Aisne site:

- NEC FaultTolerant server
- NEC D1-10 storage array
- VMware ESX3 (upgraded from vSphere)
- Autoloader LTO4 NEC T09
- NEC R120a-2 storage server

Roissy site:

- NEC FaultTolerant server
- NEC D3-10 storage array
- VMware vSphere

TESTIMONIES

"Even though the FaultTolerant server and virtualization solution make administration easier and lower costs, security and continuity of service remain our top priorities here at Intersnack France. It was these two criteria that prevailed in choosing the NEC solution," testifies Alain ROCHE, Head of Systems and Networks at Intersnack France and chief architect of the overhaul of its IT infrastructure.



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