



LIECHTENSTEINISCHE LANDESBANK AG

BETTER CONTROL OF THE BUSINESS WITH SUN, IBM DB2 DATABASE, AND SAP R/3 APPLICATIONS

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Company

Liechtensteinische Landesbank AG

Industry/Market

Financial Services

Key Business Issues

- Gain better control over the business
- Consolidate multiple finance systems onto a single server
- Leverage positive experiences with Sun and familiarity with the DB2 database at the same time

Business Results

- Better control of business achieved
- Highly stable, smoothly running environment
- Excellent record for reliability and availability

Configuration Specifics

- Sun Enterprise™ 10000 server
- Hitachi Data Systems storage
- Solaris™ 8 Operating Environment
- IBM DB2 database
- SAP R/3 Finance and Controlling modules

“We are very pleased with our Sun Enterprise 10000 system. The combination of the Solaris 8 Operating Environment, IBM DB2 database, and SAP R/3 business applications has proven to be extremely stable. Performance is good and there has been almost no downtime.”

*Werner Rissi,
E10K Technical Installation
System Administrator,
Liechtensteinische Landesbank AG*

The Liechtensteinische Landesbank AG (LLB), one of the country's three main banks, has consolidated multiple small systems onto a single Sun Enterprise™ 10000 server running the IBM DB2 database and SAP R/3 applications. With help from Sun Professional Services, the bank created a four domain architecture that reliably delivers high performance on all applications, with room to spare for future expansion.

The bank has found the combination of the Solaris 8 Operating Environment, DB2 database, and SAP R/3 applications to be particularly strong and stable. With a single system running the bank, and with the power of SAP R/3's Finance and Controlling applications added to the mix, the bank has succeeded in its primary goal of gaining better control over its business.

Major Liechtenstein Bank Consolidates Banking Systems for Better Control

The Liechtensteinische Landesbank AG is one of the three main banks in the principality of Liechtenstein. LLB is a full services bank with headquarters in the capital city and branch offices in four nearby towns.

LLB has a long history of success with Sun technology. By 1999, the bank had accumulated approximately 40 Sun Enterprise servers as well as other small computer systems that collectively were used to run the bank's applications. Although they served the bank's basic needs well, the sheer number of separate systems represented a considerable system administration expense. In addition, LLB wanted to achieve better control over its business. These considerations led to a project where the various smaller systems would be consolidated onto a single large server that would also host a new application for exercising control over all banking operations.

Record of Success with Sun Makes the Starfire Server the Obvious Choice

“Given our extremely positive experiences with Sun in the past, as well as the huge capacity of the Sun Enterprise 10000 server, there was little doubt about what server platform to use,” said Werner Rissi, E10K Technical Installation System Administrator for LLB. “We didn't seriously consider any alternative. Sun technology has always delivered us stability, reliability and high performance—the essential qualities in banking systems.”

Likewise the bank had a long history using the DB2 database from IBM. The DB2 database solution was in place on the bank's mainframe computer and on several smaller systems as well. Rather than adopt a new database solution and face risks and learning curves, LLB chose to leverage its personnel's experience with the DB2 database as the Starfire™ server's database.

Sun Professional Services Optimizes Domain Architecture for SAP R/3 Applications

LLB finalized its decisions in December of 1999 and placed an order for the Sun Enterprise 10000 server along with storage arrays from Hitachi Data Systems (HDS), who has recently joined forces with Sun to deliver a broad range of upgraded products and services targeted at enterprise customers.

For help designing an optimal domaining strategy, the bank called for assistance from Sun Professional Services. "For configuring SAP R/3 applications, Sun Professional Services provided us with a truly excellent consultant," reported Rissi. "He was able to overcome all our initial obstacles and develop a very stable system that is meeting our hopes and expectations."

The Starfire architecture that Sun Professional Services developed consists of four domains, one for SAP applications and the other three for Lotus Notes, FileNet, and a variety of asset management, portfolio management, trading, and other financial applications from several vendors. The SAP domain has three components, one each for production, test, and development.

Solaris 8 Operating Environment, IBM DB2 Database, and SAP R/3 Applications Combination Delivers Stability, Reliability, and Performance

The system entered production use in summer of 2000 and has been running reliably ever since, serving the needs of hundreds of users throughout the bank's headquarters and branch network. Sun Support Services personnel, under the SunSpectrum Gold™ service plan, make sure the system's excellent availability record continues. "The Sun support people who watch over our mission-critical systems are excellent," said Rissi.

"We are very pleased with our Sun Enterprise 10000 system," Rissi reported. "The combination of the Solaris 8 Operating Environment, IBM DB2 database, and SAP R/3 applications has proven to be extremely stable. With Sun's scalability and the huge capacity of the Sun Enterprise 10000 server, we have ample room for expansion."

To make expandability still easier, LLB is currently redesigning the HDS storage architecture to replace the SCSI interface in place with SAN (Storage-Area Network) technology. LLB is also considering adding a second Starfire server, perhaps clustered with the first system for backup and high availability.

"Thanks in part to our wise choice of vendors, we've succeeded in our efforts to consolidate and secure better control over the business," Rissi concluded. "Sun, DB2 database, and SAP R/3 applications make a very good combination and we recommend them highly."

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