

LHI Leasing

Simplifying and Automating the IT Landscape with SAP® Software



Company

LHI Leasing GmbH

Headquarters

Pullach, Germany

Industry, products, and services Financial services provider – real estate leasing

Web site www.lhi.de

SAP® solutions and services

SAP NetWeaver® Landscape Virtualization Management software and the SAP® Ramp-Up program

Partner

VMware, Inc www.vmware.com

Partner solution

VMware vSphere®

Delivering quality service and performance every day

From its start in real estate leasing in 1973 to its emergence as an investment partner to individuals, companies, and governments across Germany, LHI Leasing GmbH has built a reputation for quality and performance. That's a direct result of the dedication and experience of LHI's 300 employees – who, every day, stake their own reputation on the quality and performance of SAP® software.

Since 1996 LHI has relied on enterprise software from SAP to support its most critical business applications. With the recent and rapid emergence of cloud and virtualization technologies, LHI recognized the tremendous cost and performance advantages of upgrading its entire infrastructure to a secure private cloud environment.

To get there, LHI teamed with SAP Consulting to deploy VMware vSphere® along with SAP NetWeaver® Landscape Virtualization Management software.

This potent combination of virtualization and lifecycle automation software has already cut end-to-end system refreshes from weeks to a couple of hours, and that's only the beginning. LHI's employees are also noticing a difference with improved performance and availability of the SAP software they use every day. By continuing its partnership with SAP Consulting, LHI expects to achieve even greater improvements in efficiency, performance, and cost reduction.



Read more

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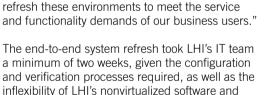
Improving the agility of the SAP landscape and the IT team

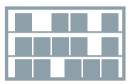
The small IT team at LHI supports a very broad software and hardware landscape consisting of the SAP ERP application and other SAP Business Suite software along with the SAP NetWeaver Business Warehouse application. "We have a three-tier landscape for our deployed SAP solutions," explains Manfred Bellet, IT services team lead at LHI. "With separate development, quality assurance, and production environments, we have to constantly refresh these environments to meet the service and functionality demands of our business users."

hardware landscape. The company had already

an overall strategy to virtualize its entire storage,

virtualized its non-SAP system landscape as part of





3-tier
Landscape for

SAP solutions

data, and application infrastructure. LHI's missioncritical SAP landscape was the next phase of the virtualization strategy. But as Bellet points out, "Given how crucial our SAP software is to everything we do, we need to make the smart choices in terms of virtualization strategy, technology, and partners."



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Choosing proven solutions from proven technology partners

An important priority for LHI was to ensure the safe transformation of its SAP software landscape to a virtualized environment, one that would deliver flexibility and efficiency over the long term. To meet that requirement, LHI chose vSphere for its virtualization software and SAP NetWeaver Landscape Virtualization Management to maintain and optimize all of the different virtual layers, including the applications and data.

The VMware virtualization software helps LHI maximize use of hardware, while shrinking power consumption, floor space, and cost. "We evaluated different solutions in the market," says Bellet.

"vSphere has a proven track record for achieving highly agile SAP software landscapes, and we can take full advantage of any optimization opportunities with SAP NetWeaver Landscape Virtualization Management."

In particular, Bellet's team viewed the postcopy automation functionality of SAP NetWeaver Landscape Virtualization Management as a great opportunity to optimize processes. "We want to automate all of the configuration tasks that accompany our end-to-end system refreshes," explains Bellet. "We can rapidly clone new systems and better maintain user access to our SAP software applications even as we conduct maintenance and upgrades."

"SAP NetWeaver Landscape Virtualization Management makes our entire SAP software landscape highly visible. The software helps us simplify and centralize landscape administration."

Manfred Bellet, IT Services Team Lead, LHI Leasing GmbH



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Becoming an early adopter with SAP Ramp-Up

In virtualizing its SAP software landscape, the LHI team wanted to move quickly. "Our internal team had vSphere up and running in two days," says Bellet. "And our SAP Consulting team took another day to install the landscape virtualization management software from SAP, which included configuration with vSphere and our deployed SAP systems." LHI is also an early adopter of SAP NetWeaver Landscape Virtualization Management. The company participated in the SAP Ramp-Up program to

ensure that the software met system copy automation and other critical requirements. The team at LHI worked directly with an SAP Ramp-Up coach, who had direct contact with the team at SAP developing SAP NetWeaver Landscape Virtualization Management.

In addition, experts from SAP Consulting helped LHI's IT team design and validate the new virtualization architecture and migrate to the new hardware servers. "The SAP Ramp-Up program provided us with the expertise we needed to quickly resolve configuration issues," says Bellet. "It helped us ensure that SAP NetWeaver Landscape Virtualization Management has critical functionality that meets our needs."

"We needed to ensure a safe and fast transformation to a virtualized SAP software environment. That's why we are relying on a trusted partner with deep implementation knowledge that will also provide support as we move forward."

Manfred Bellet, IT Services Team Lead, LHI Leasing GmbH



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Combining virtualized automation with cloud flexibility

Flexibility was a critical factor driving LHI's virtualization architecture decisions, including the upgrade of hardware supporting its SAP software landscape. "We upgraded to more powerful servers as well as to a newer OS as we moved to a virtual environment," says Bellet. "We also established a secure private cloud environment that lets us quickly move applications and systems across our hardware landscape while minimizing the impact to business users."

SAP NetWeaver Landscape Virtualization Management allows Bellet and his team to fully automate the cloning, copying, and refresh of LHI's separate development, test, and production environments in their new virtualized architecture. "We can now fully manage SAP software applications independently from the physical servers," says Bellet, adding that the new landscape also reduces LHI's hardware footprint. "Before, we were running on seven blade servers," he explains. "Now we run on just two blade servers. We can run our entire SAP software deployment on one server while we perform upgrades and other maintenance tasks on the other server."

"SAP NetWeaver Landscape Virtualization Management saves us a lot of time. It lets us create new SAP systems on the fly, and we can manage everything internally using the software's dashboard interfaces."

Manfred Bellet, IT Services Team Lead, LHI Leasing GmbH



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Continuously reducing cost, effort, and downtime

LHI's newly virtualized landscape has substantially reduced system downtime and hardware costs while improving flexibility and responsiveness. Both high-priority and routine IT maintenance tasks have been automated and accelerated. "So far, we can complete our end-to-end system refresh in two hours," says Bellet. "That's down from two weeks before we deployed SAP NetWeaver Landscape Virtualization Management." The IT team is continuing to partner with experts at SAP Consulting to achieve even great improvements. "Once we eliminate all remaining manual configuration tasks, we will be able to complete the refresh in just 30 minutes."

Batch processing for maintenance support, along with other IT maintenance tasks, has also accelerated as a result of the new hardware and virtualization environment optimized by SAP Consulting. For example, maintenance batch processing in the

previrtualized SAP software environment required three hours to complete. Today, it's completed in just 20 minutes. At the same time, the new environment is reducing the impact of maintenance tasks on users. "We can move host systems to any available server to complete maintenance tasks without disrupting user access to SAP software applications," says Bellet. "And with the improved hardware, our employees are also noticing better overall performance when using those applications."



2 hours
For system refreshes



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Unleashing greater IT effectiveness

LHI's IT team continues to follow its enterprise-wide virtualization road map. "We want to use the postcopy refresh functionality of SAP NetWeaver Landscape Virtualization Management to streamline maintenance of our business warehouse," says Bellet. And with the efficiency gains achieved so far, LHI's IT team can now focus on delivering even better service to employees and even better value to LHI. "We are definitely on the right track with our virtualization strategy," concludes Bellet. "Our team has more space and more time to work on new projects to improve service and reduce cost."





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