

SIOS Protection Suite Delivers High Availability in a Virtualized SAP Environment

A major Austrian natural resources enterprise chooses SIOS Protection Suite to protect its business-critical SAP applications

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When one of Austria's leading natural resources companies moved to SUSE Linux Enterprise Server to host multiple SAP ERP environments, their partner Computer Concept (CC) recommended that they use SIOS Protection Suite to provide high availability (HA) protection for their mission-critical SAP ERP applications. CC is a SIOS partner that manages the SIOS Competence and Support Center for Central and Eastern Europe.

Several years later, when the natural resources company moved their SAP applications to a virtualized environment it evaluated the best strategy for maintaining high availability protection.

A clear winner

In the company's physical server environment, SIOS Protection Suite monitored system and application health and automatically and transparently failed over applications to standby servers in the event of a fault or failure. They needed the same outstanding availability protection in a virtualized space.

Thomas Jorczyk, CC Sales and Marketing Manager, and Gerd Jelinek, CC Managing Partner knew that SIOS Protection Suite

was still the best solution for their virtual environment. "SIOS is a customer-focused company," said Jelinek. "Requests from customers bring the next level of innovation. For this virtualization project, SIOS worked with us to create a highly effective customized solution."

The project involved new hardware combined with a VMware virtualization platform. SIOS had the best solution because of the customers' requirement for high availability SAP protection for its central IT environment. They also value vendor independence and reliability. VMware alone simply could not provide the level of protection required for a business-critical application such as SAP. "By providing an application-level view of the environment, SIOS provides better recovery time objectives (RTOs) and broader protection than VMwareHA, which can protect against hardware failures but cannot understand or manage what's happening inside a virtual machine." said Jelinek.

Ready, set, go

Best practices for SAP environments demand tightly integrated clustering, continuous monitoring, data replication, and configurable recovery. Native support for these functions

is limited in SAP. SIOS Protection Suite addresses all levels of uptime requirements — simply, reliably, and affordably, with solutions that deploy in half the time and at half the cost of conventional point solution products.

CC worked closely with SIOS and the customer to develop a proof-of-concept. "We wanted to demonstrate that SIOS Protection Suite provides extended protection and benefits for virtualized SAP environments," said Jelinek. "We discussed how to configure the product and find the best way to protect their dynamic environment. The customer wanted assurance that SIOS Protection Suite would still add value in a virtual environment and they wanted to understand the impact of adding SIOS Protection Suite to the migration."

The evaluation process was smooth. Staff from Computer Concept's SIOS SAP Competence and Support Center provided technical advice. The final product combines NetWeaver, Oracle, SIOS Protection Suite, SUSE Linux, VMware ESX 5, Cisco UCS servers, and NetApp storage. A small internal team at the customer site migrated 12 SAP clusters and ensure everything ran smoothly throughout the migration process.

Certified SAP Integration

"The fact that SIOS Protection Suite was certified by SAP was very important to this customer and to most SAP installations," said Jorczyk. "Only three companies have this certification worldwide. "

The SAP Integration and Certification Center certified the integration of SIOS Protection Suite for SAP Business suite software customers. This means that SIOS Protection Suite is proven to integrate with SAP solutions to protecting SAP Servers and data with HA clustering, multisite DR and continuous data replication. The certification also means that both SAP and SIOS support organizations collaborate to provide fast, efficient responses to any questions or issues that may arise.

The Results

The customer enjoys extended protection, improved availability, and reduced operating costs. Jorczyk notes that the client is please with its flexible, virtualized, and reliable SAP environment. Provisioning new SAP workloads and seats is now easy and allows the client to reduce unplanned downtime. Ultimately the SAP migration project went so well, the customer is evaluating SIOS Protection Suite for additional HA requirements and projects in their virtualized environments.

About SIOS

SIOS delivers innovative software solutions that provide application availability and disaster protection for Windows and Linux environments.

Clusters Your Way.™

An essential ingredient in any cluster solution, SIOS SAN and #SANLess clustering software provides the flexibility to build clusters your way to protect your choice of Windows or Linux environment – and any configuration (or combination) of physical, virtual and cloud (public, private, and hybrid) storage – without sacrificing performance or availability. SIOS provides unique #SANLess clustering software that eliminates both the cost and the single-point-of-failure risk of traditional SAN-based cluster solutions.

Founded in 1999, SIOS Technology Corp., is headquartered in San Mateo, California, and has offices throughout the United States, United Kingdom, and Japan.

About Computer Concept (CC)

CC (Computersysteme und Kommunikationstechnik GmbH) specializes in solutions to protect business-critical data and applications, as well as the creation of customized software solutions. The company specializes in HA solutions that can be applied across platforms, focusing on SIOS Protection Suite and high availability solutions for SAP environments. In partnership with SIOS, CC runs the Competence and Support Ceneer for Central and Eastern Europe region, providing first- and secon-level support and conducting presales support for Linux installations.

For more information, visit <http://www.cc-dresden.de/de/>.

