DELL

A design for greater productivity

gkp fassadentechnik enhances the mobility of engineers to deliver better client support by choosing virtual workstations

gkp fassadentechnik ag

Engineering & Research | Switzerland

Business needs

gkp fassadentechnik had to replace its ageing workstations and looked for a solution to improve mobility and support greater productivity.

Solutions at a glance

- Cloud Client-Computing
- Data Center Virtualization
- Enterprise Support
- Servers

Business results

- Improves mobility, enabling staff to deliver better client services

- Enhances uptime with remote support for rapid resolutions

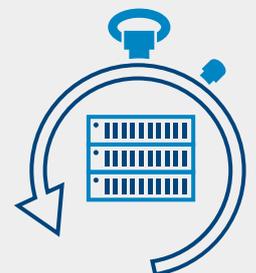- Saves CHF20,000 (US$20,100) on replacing ageing workstations

30%
reduction in workstation IT costs per employee

60
hours a year less management time increases IT productivity

Compared with many industries, engineering has been slower to adopt desktop virtualization because of concerns around the performance and security of thin- and zero-client-based solutions. However, with data-centre solutions for virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) addressing these concerns, the situation is changing fast.

gkp fassadentechnik sought to replace its workstation environment with a VDI when the ageing workstations began to fail. The company designs facades for buildings, creating exteriors that aim to control measures such as noise and sunlight glare. Stakeholders saw that a VDI solution would help improve the productivity of employees and IT staff. With the existing environment, it could take up to two days to install the software for a new starter. Because support had to be desk-side, routine management was time-consuming and expensive. Reto Gloor, CEO of gkp fassadentechnik, says, "We also wanted to improve the mobility of our engineers. Because they're often out visiting customers, we needed to give them remote access to project data."

A VDI solution fit for engineers

As well as moving to a VDI, gkp fassadentechnik planned to outsource IT management to Rey Informatik. The partner proposed a Dell Wyse Datacenter for Virtual Workstations as a solution. The infrastructure delivers high performance workstation functionality, security and efficiency. gkp fassadentechnik ran a proof of concept based on a reference architecture featuring two Dell EMC PowerEdge R730 servers with NVIDIA Grid K2 graphical processor units, running VMware Horizon® View™ 6.2, and configured in high availability mode. Dell Wyse 7030 PCoIP zero clients for VMware were chosen as endpoints, which are verified by leading vendors of computer-aided design (CAD) software. Comments Gloor, "Feedback from personnel was that CAD ran just as well on the VDI environment as the previous infrastructure when using the Dell Wyse 7030 zero client for VMware. It proved that Dell was the right solution."

Saves CHF20,000 (US$20,100)

gkp fassadentechnik significantly lowered the expense of replacing its workstations with its Dell-based VDI solution. Gloor says, "We gained a high-performance VDI solution from Dell while saving around CHF20,000 on the price of replacing the physical workstations."

Enhances flexibility, improves services

The company keeps its data protected on a server while giving personnel remote access to applications and files. "All projects over the last 25 years are held on a central server. Staff can access our past projects securely through the Dell VDI and showcase them to clients. It's very effective," says Gloor.

Cuts IT costs per employee by 30 per cent

Employee productivity is no longer affected if issues arise. With Wyse Device Manager, IT staff administer all endpoints centrally, reducing resolution times to a couple of hours instead of days. The improved productivity of staff and the cost-effectiveness of the solution will deliver important savings. Comments Gloor, "We expect to reduce IT spend by up to 30 per cent per employee over the next five years as a result of moving to a Dell VDI solution."

Desktops delivered in two hours, not two days

When employees join, they gain quicker access to the IT they need. "In just two hours, IT personnel can set up one of our zero clients for an employee. This means a new member of staff can start working productively almost immediately," says Gloor.

> *"Staff can access our past projects securely through the Dell VDI and showcase them to clients. It's very effective."*

Reto Gloor, CEO, gkp fassadentechnik

Update management cut by 60 hours a year

To ensure the VDI maximises uptime, IT personnel work with ProSupport so that any issues are fixed quickly. Furthermore, IT administrators can focus on the strategic development of the company's IT because of the simplicity of the VDI. Gloor says, "We save around 60 hours a year just in managing software updates with our Dell VDI. It's delivering great value to the business."

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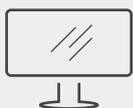
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