

Case study

Car Rental

European data centre migration and virtualisation

Xtravirt keeps the business running as data centres across Europe are consolidated and centralised

The Customer

Leading global provider of vehicle rental services, with more than 10,000 rental locations in approximately 175 countries.

The Situation

The autonomous nature of country based IT teams and business units had led to a plethora of data centres and infrastructure standards across its European hubs. This had increased the costs of running and supporting the IT infrastructure and had added complications to the planned introduction of Europe wide business initiatives and requisite compliance standards.

Country systems siloed by local language, business practice and diverse standards all needed to be consolidated and migrated to a purpose built facility in the UK. Not uncommonly this all had to be achieved to an aggressive timescale with minimal impact on the daily operations of the business.

Our Approach

A critical factor in successfully migrating data centre workloads between locations is to have a thorough and well documented understanding of the infrastructure and the associated applications and business processes to be migrated.

At a glance

Requirements

- 10 data centres staged, consolidated and migrated
- 300+ virtual workloads migrated
- 30 tb of data migrated

Solution

- Captured the physical environment metrics such as server, memory and storage size
- Documented the application landscape, business processes, users and interfaces
- Analysed the data to size target platforms

Outcome

- Brand new data centre facility created to host the consolidated workloads of 10 pre-existing data centre environments
- Single consolidated backup and archive solution replacing a multitude of disparate systems and processes
- Consolidated licencing policy across the new infrastructure, reducing costs and ensuring compliance
- Significant reduction in operational support and maintenance costs

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Xtravirt deployed its proven migration method to capture these key dimensions of the environments. Xtravirt utilised its Passport framework which provides a structured approach to ensure source environments are successfully transitioned to new target environments.

This method includes:

- Capturing the physical environment metrics such as server, memory and storage size and usage
- Documenting of the application landscape, impacted business processes and users and the interfaces to internal and external parties
- Detailed analysis to correctly size target platforms and the selection of appropriate migration processes and tools

Working closely with the country IT teams a detailed plan plotted the sequencing of country consolidations, staging and migration activities. This identified the ability to parallelise a number of key activities that ensured timescales could be met without increasing the risk of business downtime.

Transition activities including staging, consolidation activities and the migration events were scheduled to minimise business downtime and any potential impact on customer service.

Outcomes Achieved

- Brand new data centre facility created to host the consolidated workloads of 10 pre-existing data centre environments
- Ten-fold improvement in server utilisation with the ability to rapidly provision new machines at short notice
- Improved network communications and commonality of network components
- Single consolidated backup and archive solution replacing a multitude of disparate systems and processes
- Consolidated licencing policy across the new infrastructure, reducing costs and ensuring compliance
- Significant reduction in operational support and maintenance costs

Xtravirt is a leading, independent provider of enterprise virtualisation solutions. We deliver data centre, workspace and cloud transformational solutions to clients across public and private sectors, both in the UK and internationally.

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