



SUCCESS STORY

MERKEL ADOPTS RIVERBED



Merkel Freudenberg Fluidtechnic GmbH operates production plants in Hamburg and in Schwalmstadt, Germany. The sites previously belonged to various companies and were consolidated into one Hamburg-based firm after the Freudenberg Group acquired Merkel.

The potential for IT consolidation was clear from the start, but it could not be easily realized due to physical constraints such as data access times, line costs, and availability demands.

The Solution

To solve access time problems over the WAN lines between Hamburg and Schwalmstadt, Merkel adopted FIT's managed WADS service based on Riverbed's application acceleration solution in March 2007.

The locations have now been successfully linked up thanks to the powerful acceleration of access times, especially with respect to Microsoft application data.

Organizational implementation will commence soon. Positive effects from the IT consolidation are already noticeable: the standard reporting systems no longer contain duplicate data, for example, which prevents version conflicts and frees up memory space. Further consolidation measures, that were previously not possible due to the limitations in the WAN environment, can now be tackled to achieve maximum synergy effects at both production sites.

Example of Performance Measurement

To measure performance, selected daily "reference data" is sent by script from Schwalmstadt to Hamburg and the transfer time is recorded.

To give readers an idea of how transfer time has been accelerated, before the adoption of FIT's Riverbed managed service, the average transfer time was 165 seconds; now it is a mere 5 seconds. This represents a 33-fold increase in performance.

Summary

"The performance gains greatly exceeded my expectations and enable us to reap the economic benefits of consolidation in our business processes and in the operation of our IT infrastructure," Harry Hansen, Merkel Freudenberg Fluidtechnic GmbH.

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