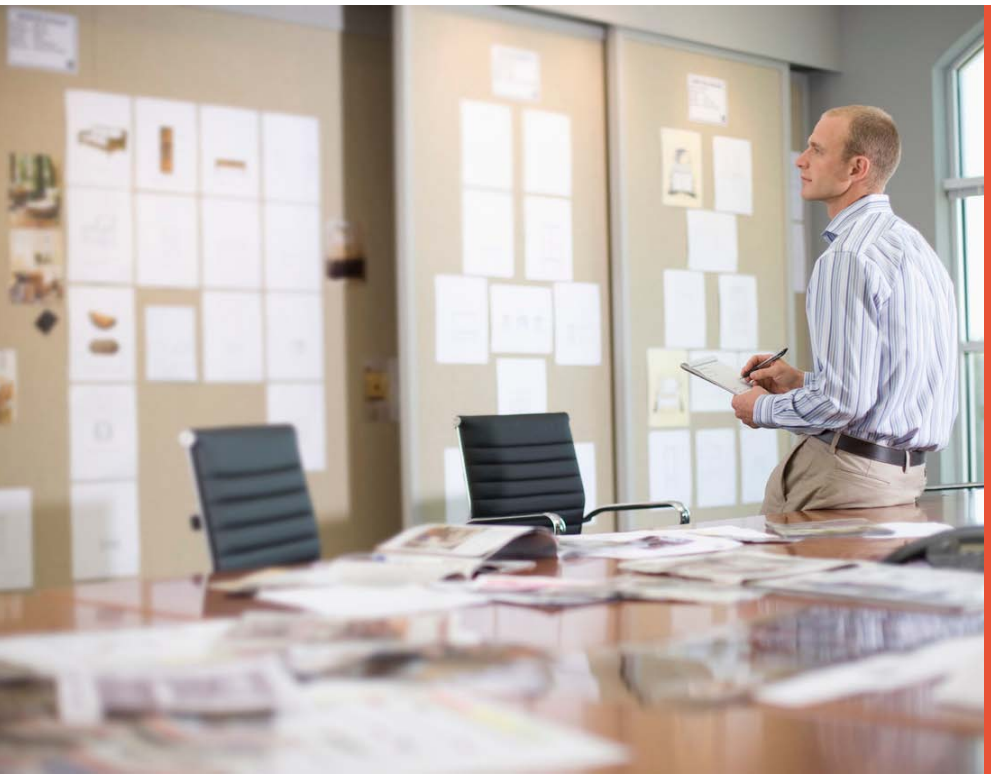
Broadcaster in Switzerland consolidates servers by around 52 per cent and boosts operations with virtualization

- Backup, recovery and archiving
- Data consolidation and management
- Green efficiency
- Virtualization



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Hervé Berthet, Head of IT, TSR

Customer profile

Company:	Télévision Suisse Romande (TSR)
Industry:	Arts, Entertainment & Media
Country:	Switzerland
Employees:	1,200
Website:	www.tsr.ch

Business need
The broadcaster needed to support growth by significantly expanding the capacity of its datacentre.

Solution
It decided to virtualize the infrastructure and create a more flexible datacentre.

RTS Radio Télévision Suisse

Benefits

- Virtualization reduces servers by around 52 per cent
- IT personnel launch servers in hours
- TSR cuts power use and increases performance
- End users gain storage capacity on-demand
- Infrastructure delivers maximum uptime

Companies need scalable IT solutions to be successful. It's the ability to launch servers quickly and offer storage on-demand that enables organisations to make the most of new business opportunities.

"We reduced our server footprint by around 52 per cent using Dell and gained a more energy-efficient infrastructure for greener IT."

Marie-Danièle Guinchard, Head of SI Service Support Department, Télévision Suisse Romande

Télévision Suisse Romande (TSR) is part of SRG SSR – the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation – the country's main public service media provider. TSR, which has a budget of CHF280 million (£235 million) a year, broadcasts programmes on two French language channels TSR 1 and TSR 2, whose main studios are located in Geneva, with regional studios in each French-speaking canton.

The company's datacentre had reached full capacity and was unable to scale any further. The systems were also coming to the end of their useful lifecycles, and despite their reliability, would soon be out of warranty. The need for action became urgent when TSR began a merger with Lausanne-based Radio Suisse Romande (RSR), creating the need for a single IT platform.

Virtualization paves the way for flexibility

TSR wanted to deploy a virtualized platform that could increase efficiency and provide sufficient flexibility to support the merger with RSR. The company studied proposals from all the leading IT providers, including Dell, IBM and HP. However, after holding a number of meetings and workshops with each of the potential providers, TSR chose Dell, which had successfully supported the organisation for more than 10 years. Hervé Berthet, Head of IT at TSR, who led the project to virtualize the infrastructure, says: "We were very happy with the Dell solutions and the project team from the start. It demonstrated a high level of knowledge and experience. We were completely confident that Dell could deliver what we needed."

TSR received help from Dell with the intricate task of designing the virtualized environment. In particular, Marie-Danièle Guinchard, Head of SI Service Support Department at TSR, was assisted by Dell consultants, who provided a technology blueprint for the environment.

Technology in practice

Services

Dell Consulting Services
- Virtualization Readiness Assessment

Dell ProSupport for IT
- Mission Critical option

Hardware

Dell™PowerEdge™ R710 servers with Intel® Xeon® Processors 5500 series

Dell EqualLogic PS4000E storage area network (SAN)

Dell/EMC CX4-120 SAN

Software

VMware® vSphere™ 5500 series
- ESX server software
- vCenter™ Server

VMware Data Recovery

EMC® Navisphere® management suite
- SnapView™

Symantec™ NetBackup™

Virtualization reduces servers by around 52 per cent

They finalised the platform design and started planning the complex implementation process, which involved installations at the main datacentre and a number of remote sites.

Complex deployment stays on schedule with great collaboration

There were no delays in the project, despite its complexity. Guinchard worked closely with a Dell project manager, who oversaw operations, co-ordinating the activities of Dell technicians as the infrastructure took shape. Comments Guinchard: "We had peace of mind that the work would follow the agreed timetable thanks to weekly status meetings arranged by our project manager." He also co-ordinated training for the TSR IT team, focusing on effective operation and management of the virtualized platform. Guinchard says: "We managed to keep the work on schedule and within budget thanks to the expertise of our project manager and technicians."

Virtualization reduces servers by around 52 per cent and cuts power use

TSR significantly consolidated its server platform by virtualizing the environment. It replaced 32 rack servers with just 15 Dell™ PowerEdge™ R710 servers featuring Intel® Xeon® Processors 5500 series and running VMware® ESX server software. The company found that the PowerEdge servers were ideal, offering approximately 125 per cent greater memory capacity than previous generations of Dell servers, and including embedded hypervisors to simplify the virtualization process. Guinchard comments: "We reduced our server footprint by around 52 per cent using Dell and gained a more energy-efficient infrastructure for greener IT."

End users see servers go live in hours

Personnel can gain access to new servers within hours of a request, thanks to the flexibility of the architecture. The move to virtualization has also helped the IT team maximise uptime across the environment because they can easily switch virtual machines between physical hosts to avoid downtime during maintenance work. Administrators use VMware vSphere™, part of VMware vCenter™ Server, to manage the virtual machines using a single console. Guinchard says: "We can launch servers in hours using our virtualized Dell server platform. In addition, we can maximise the solution's performance because of the platform's versatility."

Data capacity rises and energy consumption drops

IT personnel can quickly add storage and use fewer drives – reducing energy consumption – because they have virtualized storage with a Dell/EMC CX4-120 storage area network (SAN). To manage and protect stored data, the SAN includes the EMC® Navisphere® management suite with SnapView™, which enables point-in-time copies of data on the SAN. It also regularly transfers data to tape via a backup server running Symantec™ NetBackup™.

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Rapid backup and restore processes ensure enhanced disaster recovery

The company has improved disaster recovery for its remaining physical servers by implementing a Dell EqualLogic PS4000E SAN with VMware Data Recovery (VDR). Guinchard says: "We can hold a complete image from a physical server for up to 20 days and restore it in minutes." The solution is proving crucial for software updates. Guinchard comments: "If a patch is applied and something goes wrong days later, we can restore the server image to what it was before patching – maintaining system availability and enabling people to continue working effectively."

The EqualLogic storage with VDR has immediately reduced backup windows. "With VDR, we no longer duplicate files because only modified blocks of data are copied," says Guinchard. "This has reduced backup times, helping improve efficiency across the environment."

Excellent performance from reliable support

To ensure that the virtualized solution delivers maximum performance, TSR chose the Dell ProSupport for IT Mission Critical option, with four-hour on-site response. Guinchard says: "We felt certain that we could optimise the performance of our solution with Dell."

Efficient enterprise enables successful merger of TSR and RSR

Thanks to the new infrastructure, the RSR teams are able to use the TSR systems with ease and future joint services can be decentralised easily depending on need or available capacity.

For more information go to dell.com/casestudiesemea and dell.co.uk/casestudies

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