



Ordina boosts business with streamlined SAP services

HPE ConvergedSystem 500 delivers a tailor-made platform for SAP HANA

Objective

Update internal SAP landscape and create a new SAP HANA business strand

Approach

Issued a Request for Proposal then conducted Proof of Concept tests

IT Matters

- Delivered six new SAP HANA installations in under one month
- Provides a set of scalable, performance-optimized systems specially engineered for running SAP HANA
- Ensures high system availability and data security thanks to automatic failover

Business Matters

- Supports improved business processes and lowers TCO
- Creates the foundation for a lucrative new business offering
- Improves decision-making based on instant business insights enabled by swift data analysis



When leading Benelux IT service provider Ordina needed to upgrade its old SAP infrastructure it decided to implement SAP HANA both for its own use and as a new business offering for its customers. A reliable and scalable platform was the crucial success factor and it was delivered by HPE ConvergedSystem 500 for SAP HANA.

Challenge

Update required

High availability and scalability are important for the hardware platforms that run internal business systems but they become even more vital when they also support services that are provided for external customers. IT consultancy Ordina faced this situation when it decided to implement SAP HANA for its own use and to generate new business by offering HANA-based solution to its clients.

Ordina is the largest independent provider of IT consulting and services in the Benelux region, focussing on major market segments such as the financial services, healthcare, industrial and public sectors.

“HPE ConvergedSystem 500 is quicker and we are confident that it will lower our TCO but the most important benefit for Ordina is that it is challenging us to improve our business processes.”

– Aart van der Helm, SAP project manager, Ordina

Describing itself as ‘the designer, builder and manager of a better digital world’, Ordina employs a staff of 2,900. It was founded in 1973 and now has a head office in the Dutch town of Nieuwegein with several regional offices through the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg.

SAP Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) business applications have been central to Ordina’s infrastructure for many years and it has also hosted and managed traditional SAP environments for many of its customers. However, its SAP landscape was old and had been heavily modified and customized.

“We had a lot of problems every time we wanted to update or upgrade SAP,” explains Ordina’s SAP project manager, Aart van der Helm. “Our processes were not up-to-date and it necessitated a lot of re-work and testing effort to get the functionality up and running again. The environment had become so difficult to manage that we decided to start again from scratch with a greenfield implementation.”

In 2013/14, Ordina launched its NEXO program, aiming to modernize the SAP infrastructure, improve the company’s operations, offer a better user experience and lower TCO. Ordina also wanted to run its business processes more smoothly and to reduce the number of interfaces that had grown up between heterogeneous systems.

The SAP innovations chosen by NEXO were High-Performance Analytic Appliance (HANA), Cloud, Mobile, Fiori, Business Analytics and HANA Live. SAP HANA is a data platform for running in-memory transactional and analytical workloads. Unlike traditional databases that require these workloads to be separated, SAP HANA offers a faster, simplified architecture that enables users to analyze large amounts of data in real-time, providing instant business insights and lowering TCO.

The first phase was to use these solutions internally but the future vision was to create a new business strand by offering SAP HANA services to the market. However, Ordina’s existing systems did not match the requirements of the new applications so selecting a powerful, scalable and reliable hardware platform was a crucial success factor.



Solution

Turn-key platform

Ordina issued a Request for Proposal to major vendors and evaluated leading solutions including HPE ConvergedSystem 500 for SAP HANA. This is a set of scalable, performance-optimized systems specially engineered for running SAP HANA. Designed to simplify SAP HANA deployments, the factory-preconfigured solution contains multiple HPE ProLiant DL580 Gen8 servers, networking and SAN switching and is delivered as a turn-key solution that can be installed in as little as 15 days.

HPE ConvergedSystem 500 for SAP HANA is now certified on the latest Intel® Xeon® E7 v3 architecture and is available in scale-up configurations ranging from 128GB to 3TB to suit a variety of SAP HANA use cases across analytics and ERP.

Ordina saw demonstrations of HPE ConvergedSystem 500 and also carried out a three-month Proof of Concept. “Ordina’s policy is to run systems on premise rather than in the cloud and one of the reasons we chose HPE was that we were already running HPE servers in our production and disaster recovery data centers,” explains van der Helm.

“The main thing we liked was that this solution is easily scalable. Most of the time, when you’ve bought bare metal hardware, it’s difficult to add additional memory or disk space but with this solution, you call HPE and they just put an additional memory module on the server. Also, because high availability is important, we liked the idea of HPE Serviceguard failover software.”

Ordina bought six identical HPE ConvergedSystem 500 installations, three of which are in its main production data center and three in the disaster recovery site. They operate with the high availability and disaster-recovery solution HPE Serviceguard which automatically delivers fast failover and recovery if a system goes down.

Currently, core systems running on SAP HANA are ERP Central Components (ECC), Business Warehouse (BW) and Customer Relationship Management (CRM). Ordina’s SAP landscape also includes Process Integration, Supplier Relationship Management, Solution Manager, Gateway for Fiori, a portal with single sign-on, Identity Management and SAP Web Dispatcher. They run virtually in the Ordina data center with a Sybase database.

Customer at a glance

Hardware

- HPE ConvergedSystem 500 for SAP HANA

Software

- SAP HANA
- HPE Serviceguard
- SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 11 SP3 for SAP

HPE services

- HPE system design and implementation services
- HPE Education Services training
- HPE Proactive Care

“Due to our professional relationship with Hewlett Packard Enterprise and good connections with the HPE Competence Center, we had our HANA systems up and running within a month.”

– Aart van der Helm, SAP project manager, Ordina

HPE provided implementation and design services and HPE Education Services delivered training on how to operate and get the best out of the new systems which are covered by a five-year HPE Proactive Care contract.

Ordina is currently working to streamline the internal processes that will enable it to gain maximum benefit from SAP HANA and HPE ConvergedSystem 500. The second phase of its NEXUS program is to get all the functionality up and running and to develop its use of SAP HANA and the company is currently implementing the next generation business suite, S/4HANA with SAP Simple Finance.

Benefit

SAP for the future

“Having a factory built turn-key solution saved us time and trouble but what I liked about it was the installation help we got from HPE,” says van der Helm. “They installed the hardware in the data centers and also configured it with HPE ServiceGuard. We gained great benefit from visiting SAP experts at the HPE Competence Center in the German town of Waldorf where SAP is located. System architects showed us how to deploy the solutions and also how we should configure the network. This was difficult because we had to put several different network layers in data centers that are more than 150km apart and that brought a lot of complications. We would not have been able to do it ourselves and if we had tried it would have taken a lot of time and money. Training from HPE Education Services has also given us confidence in using the new solutions.”

“At the moment it’s too early to comment on the improvements we have seen because we are not yet using the full functionality that is offered,” says van der Helm. “However, I am confident that we will achieve the NEXUS aims of lowering TCO, creating a better user experience and reducing the number of system interfaces. The implementation of SAP HANA systems went very smoothly and with good help from HPE, the installation was quick and straightforward. We now have an SAP landscape for the future.”

Ordina has now added in-premise installations of SAP HANA to its service portfolio and looks forward to the income growth that this additional business strand will bring.

Learn more at
hpe.com/info/sap/hana



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