**Hewlett Packard Enterprise**

**VAN DE WIELE**

# Van De Wiele ready for future growth thanks to new server park

More scaleability for weaving machine manufacturer thanks to HPE ProLiant DL380 servers

**Objective**
Realise a solution for replacement of old servers, taking future growth into account
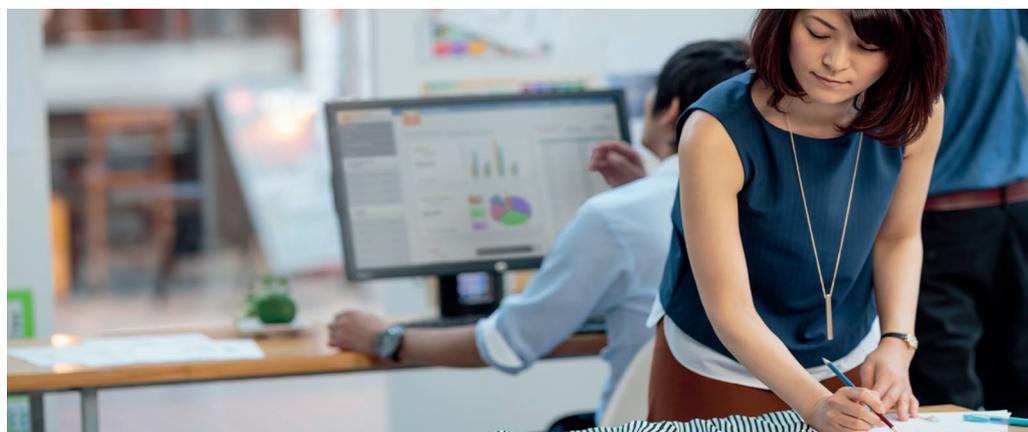
**Approach**
Select a reliable partner which can offer a total solution using HPE hardware

**IT matters**
• Improve controllability

• Higher speed

• Eliminate downtime

**Business matters**
• Expandable

• Cost-saving



## Challenge

### Innovation-led
The Belgian company NV Michel Van De Wiele in Marke, near Kortrijk, is market leader in the development, construction and installation of high-technology, high-quality carpet and velvet weaving machines.

The company, which is part of the Van De Wiele Group, has branches in Europe, America, North Africa and Asia and has grown strongly in recent years through acquisitions.

As Van De Wiele mainly competes with companies in low-wage countries such as China, it is of great importance that it leads the way in the field of automation and new technologies.

"The only way to survive is to be highly innovative," says Steven Delputte, Director of Operations at Van De Wiele. "Every year, 80% of what we sell has been developed over the last three to four years, which shows how fast things move in our world."

### Server park renewal
When Van De Wiele switched to a new ERP environment four years ago, in which it wanted to accommodate all its existing subsidiaries and future acquisitions, the old architecture - some of which was still running on five-year-old IBM equipment - ran into performance problems.

Van De Wiele had a global server platform with two data centres. A fault in the server platform would affect all server roles. So response time, for example, was very slow.

"The goal was not, in itself, to replace IBM. The functional goal was actually for the Van De Wiele Group to collect all data at the data centre in Marke - and the equipment present at the time was just not suitable for carrying all of that," says Delputte. "Which is why we have modernised our server park."

## Customer at a glance

**Hardware**
- HPE ProLiant DL380 Gen9 servers
- HPE 3PAR StoreServ Storage

## Solution

### ICT Partner Savaco provides a total solution

Savaco, which already worked with Van De Wiele in various ICT domains, took the lead in the search for a total solution that would meet future challenges. The defined path covered the provision of specific technology for each workload, the renewal of storage and backup, the network and, ultimately, the server park.

"After expanding storage two years ago using HPE 3PAR, we realised that that wasn't enough." Delputte continues, "Meanwhile, the Van De Wiele Group had bought another company and at the beginning of this year we made a plan, together with Savaco, to renew a server park so that we would, in normal circumstances, have enough for the next two to three years. The transition from the old to the new servers went smoothly. Actually, it went extremely well this time. As we were also virtualised, in both the old and new environments, switching from the old to the new servers was very easy."

## Benefits

### Scaleabilty and manageability

Within this concept, the I/O-intensive workloads were separated from the application workloads. It was also decided to have separate production and test & development environments.

"In this way, the right resources are used for every workload and environment," says Fries Vandendriessche of Savaco. He continues, "Each environment can be updated without affecting the rest. That's what we call scaleability - and it's more flexible than an all-in-one configuration."

Although the new server park and the two data centres will not be completed until 2019, Delputte is satisfied. "You no longer hear complaints, which is an indication in itself. The systems perform much better than what we had before. The database runs completely in memory and is a whole lot faster than before."

### 'Bought with growth in mind'

Van De Wiele has 3,000 employees, half of whom are IT users. Thanks to the server park renewal, this number can easily be expanded, which is always useful in view of future acquisitions. "The new products have been bought with growth in mind, so that we no longer have problems of scaleability," says Delputte.

### Cost-savings

The solution has also led to cost savings. For example, the old IBM machines are still being kept alive and are used in the test and development environment.

"Ultimately, the goal of the entire migration of data and software is also to optimise the use of licences," says Delputte. "Central management means that every branch didn't have to purchase separately."

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