



SUCCESS STORY
**SAP Projects in Logistics
 and Production**



IGZ - THE SAP ENGINEERS | PROBLEM SOLVED

A data fabric with NetApp® solutions for flash, disk, and cloud provides efficiency, flexibility, and future-readiness to a growing services business.

IGZ Builds SAP Expertise on Data and NetApp

HUGO BOSS, Linde, Migros, Sanofi, TRUMPF – IGZ’s references resemble a Who’s Who in industry and commerce. IGZ’s projects are as different as its customers and range from retrofitting a programmable control to SAP implementations for warehousing, transport, and production with hundreds of man-days in IGZ services. When it comes to data, IGZ relies only on NetApp technology.

Another NetApp solution delivered by:



Ihr IT-Partner!

Database operations
accelerated

Uptime and user satisfaction
 close to
100%

Ready for
hybrid cloud

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“The NetApp concept of data fabric was the sweet spot. No other vendor could offer this kind of future outlook. It also convinced our management.”

Matthias Schmidt

Team Lead in System Administration, IGZ – The SAP Engineers

IGZ – The SAP Engineers cover SAP projects in logistics and production end to end. Services range from SAP-related IT strategy consulting and plant and process planning to software implementation and technology integration with the SAP software suite. As an SAP Extended Warehouse Management (SAP EWM) general contractor, IGZ delivers complete logistics solutions. These range from steel construction, conveyor technology, and stacker crane to a fully intelligent logistics system with dedicated programmable control and SAP implementation for warehouse management and material flow control. Upon request, IGZ supports customers with maintenance and services across the full warehouse lifecycle. Since it was founded in 1999, IGZ has been growing, with currently more than 400 employees at sites in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland.

Because IGZ needs 24/7 customer service and optimal working conditions, the company relies on NetApp. Communication, files, virtualized servers, and the entire SAP system landscape for development, testing, and demonstration depend on NetApp solutions. Even though engineers work remotely on customer systems, they need fast and reliable data access on premises.

Most critical are the virtualized systems for development, for tests and for the proprietary project management tool.

IGZ reached a point where its growing projects (in number and size), a migration to SAP HANA database technology, and the need for more server performance were taking a toll. Only 5 years after IGZ’s first investment in NetApp technology, it was time for a tech refresh.

INTO ALL FLASH WITH NETAPP

IGZ chose all-flash technology and again chose NetApp. “Our experience with NetApp has been positive for years. We have enjoyed the availability, performance, and flexibility of the NetApp solutions and excellent support,” says Matthias Schmidt, team lead in system administration at IGZ’s headquarters in Falkenberg, Bavaria. “The NetApp concept of data fabric was the sweet spot. No other vendor could offer this kind of future outlook. It also convinced our management.”

Implementing the new NetApp AFF A220 all-flash system and new backup storage went quickly and smoothly. IGZ operates server rooms in two separate buildings

BUSINESS BENEFITS

- System migration with minimal downtime
- Improved storage efficiency
- Accelerated data services
- New options for backup optimization
- Additional safety through proactive monitoring
- Data management across flash, disk, and cloud from a single source

to accommodate primary and backup systems, four VMware ESX servers, and about 120 virtual machines. The file service runs on storage virtual machines (SVMs). Just a few hours after switching on, the new AFF A220 was configured and integrated with the VMware environment and its database systems. The team avoided tedious file copying and used SVM disaster recovery relationships to replicate the files to the new system.

“For security reasons, the migration took place during a weekend. In retrospect, it could have been at a lunch break. A few minutes of downtime, and everything went as it should,” says Matthias Schmidt. “The migration to the NetApp all-flash system went seamlessly, thanks to our long-term partner MR Datentechnik. Its experts prepared the implementation as professionally as usual and carried it out even faster than planned.”

FULL SUCCESS

IGZ measures the success of its investment in NetApp solutions by system availability and by user satisfaction with the performance. And both are close to 100%. Users say that their systems now run and react significantly faster.

After the team sized the new all-flash system according to the existing workloads, the IOPS rate

was 13 times higher than before. The storage footprint shrank from 13 to 2 rack units. And because efficiency increased by 200%, IGZ can effectively use 3 times more capacity now.

The customer also benefits from the NetApp efficiency guarantee. “There are many efficiency promises, but NetApp honors it and compensates for missing capacity free of charge,” says Schmidt. After the migration of the primary system, NetApp delivered and installed a few SSDs.

For backup and restore, IGZ uses NetApp Snapshot™ technology, which helps simplify SAP operations. If any errors occur, the previous system status can be restored within a few minutes. Maintenance and update schedules stay on track, and support calls are obsolete.

EXTENDING THE DATA FABRIC INTO THE CLOUD

“Using everything from a single source has its benefits,” says Matthias Schmidt. “All our NetApp systems simply work together.” All systems are integrated within a data fabric so that IGZ can store, save, and manage data as needed.

This data fabric also includes NetApp E-Series systems, which are part of IGZ’s mobile demonstration setup for trade shows.

“I would always recommend that companies with similar needs use a solution from NetApp. With our current configuration, we are ideally positioned for the coming years.”

Matthias Schmidt
Team Lead in System Administration, IGZ – The SAP Engineers

13x

HIGHER IOPS RATE

200%

MORE CAPACITY

85%

SMALLER STORAGE FOOTPRINT

Adding cloud to the data fabric is only a matter of time for the company. IGZ is already deploying Microsoft 365 and has assessed options such as NetApp Cloud Volumes ONTAP® storage. Cloud Volumes ONTAP can help shift the SAP specialists' test environments to cloud storage. Furthermore, IGZ clients could first test their solutions in the cloud. With Cloud Volumes ONTAP, IGZ can gain both cloud agility and seamless use of NetApp technologies such as Snapshot copies and cloning. And data can be replicated to a hyper-scaler cloud as usual with NetApp SnapMirror® replication technology.

"The Cloud Volumes ONTAP demonstration convinced me just as much as the easy-to-use NetApp Cloud Manager software," says Matthias

Schmidt. After seeing Cloud Volumes ONTAP in action, IGZ is already planning to implement it.

"I would always recommend that companies with similar needs use a solution from NetApp. With our current configuration, we are ideally positioned for the coming years and can best meet the requirements," says Matthias Schmidt.

The NetApp Active IQ® digital advisor for forecasting, prevention, and proactive protection adds to those benefits. Active IQ already proved its capabilities when it once detected a failed controller and initiated its replacement automatically. The new controller arrived at IGZ in Falkenberg by taxi on a Sunday afternoon.

SOLUTION COMPONENTS

NETAPP PRODUCTS

1 NetApp AFF A220 primary system with a NetApp FAS2720 hybrid flash system as a backup target

1 FAS8200 primary system with a FAS2554 backup target

2 E-Series systems (demonstration equipment at trade shows)

NetApp Active IQ, ONTAP 9.4, NetApp Snapshot, NetApp SnapMirror®

ENVIRONMENT

Arcserve Backup, IP telephony, Microsoft 365, Microsoft Exchange Server, VMware

MaxDB, Microsoft SQL Server, SAP HANA, SAP S/4HANA, SAP EWM, SAP Manufacturing Execution (SAP ME), SAP Manufacturing Integration and Intelligence (SAP MII), SAP Transportation Management (SAP TM)

PROTOCOLS

iSCSI, NFS, SMB

PARTNER

MR Datentechnik

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<https://www.netapp.com/us/products/storage-systems/all-flash-array/aff-a-series.aspx>

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