FAST LTA

Customer Case Study | Silent Bricks | SAP WORM Archive

How manroland Goss reduced operating costs by approximately 90% with its own SAP archive

An externally hosted document archive was becoming more expensive and required modernisation. manroland Goss moved its archiving to its own data centre, using CLARC CONTENT SERVER FOR SAP and Silent Brick WORM. According to the customer, operating costs decreased by approximately 90% compared to the previous setup.

A costly archive with complex content

Manroland Goss web systems uses SAP for financial, purchasing, production and service processes, among others. Its archive for documents and technical drawings was hosted by an external provider. Upcoming updates and rising costs prompted the company to reconsider this setup. The company wanted to store business documents, such as invoices and delivery notes, immutably over the long term, with better integration into its SAP processes.

The scope of the migration was initially unclear. The old archive contained different document types from various sources. The assessment identified more than two million documents, approximately 455 SAP objects linked to document types and around 2 TB of archive data. The challenge was therefore not only to select new storage, but also to determine a workable approach for migrating all this existing data.

The experience?

“Operating costs have decreased by approximately 90% compared to the externally hosted system.”

Ivo Kvocic, Manager Global IT Processes at manroland Goss web systems



Photos: manroland Goss web systems GmbH, May 2021

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A local archive alongside externally hosted SAP systems

ogether with IT partner CTO Balzuweit, manroland Goss selected CLARC CONTENT SERVER FOR SAP and Silent Brick WORM from FAST LTA as the physical storage medium. In early 2019, the SAP systems were moved to a new external hosting provider, while the document archive was transferred to the company's own data centre. The CLARC content server ran on a virtual server connected to the Silent Brick storage. Scanners from different generations also had to be connected to the new archive.

CTO Balzuweit assisted with the evaluation, configuration and initial testing, and provided a tool that enabled the internal IT team to carry out most of the migration itself. This gave manroland Goss control over the schedule and reduced the need for external migration work. FAST LTA contributed to the implementation and commissioning of the storage. The WORM modules protect stored documents against modification at the hardware level, while CLARC keeps them accessible through SAP.

Lower costs and simpler management

According to the original case study, archive data with retention periods of up to ten years had been migrated to the new environment. The archive had 12 TB of gross capacity available, of which 7 TB was in use at the time of the case study. The system could be expanded modularly. Peter Brechtel, then responsible for Global IT Infrastructure, described its operation as simpler than before and highlighted the automatic status notifications.

The strongest reported result was financial: Ivo Kvocic, Manager Global IT Processes, stated that operating costs had decreased by approximately 90% compared to the externally hosted archive. The company also had plans for replication to another data centre and for offline modules at a third location.