OPTIMA

A success story from mechanical engineering industry

OPTIMA packaging group GmbH – worldwide with Open-E DSS V7

OPTIMA packaging group GmbH is an international enterprise with headquarters in Schwäbisch Hall, Germany. The company is a world leader in manufacturing filling and packaging machines for food, cosmetics, healthcare and paper hygiene. OPTIMA group currently employs 1,700 employees throughout its subsidiaries worldwide.

The challenge

At its headquarters in Schwäbisch Hall, OPTIMA operates a large redundant data center. All centralized services, such as domain services, ERP/CRM, groupware and terminal services are running in this data center. Local services, such as domain controllers, file and print servers, CAD servers, client servers and additional virtual machines are run by the subsidiaries. Administration is handled directly from Schwäbisch Hall. This is why the company set up a centralized storage system based on Open-E DSS V7 and VMware ESX.
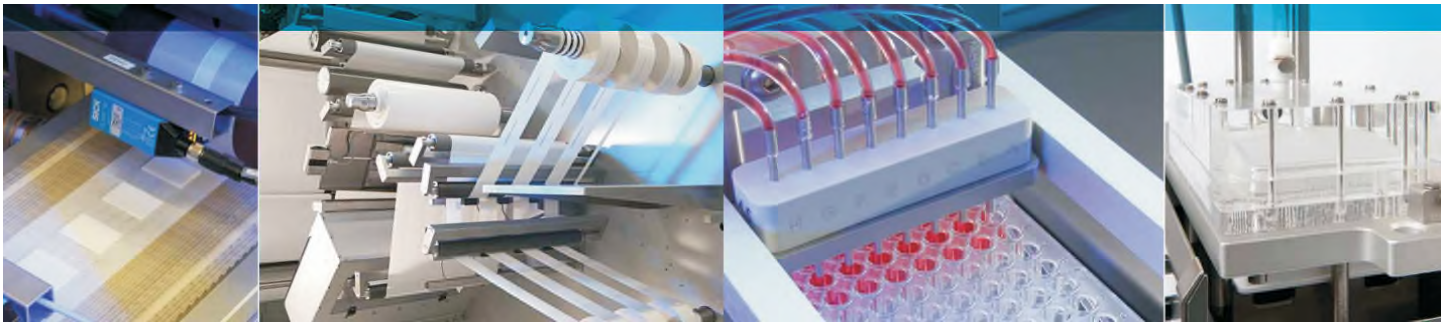

Subsidiaries with Open-E

Brasil
China
France
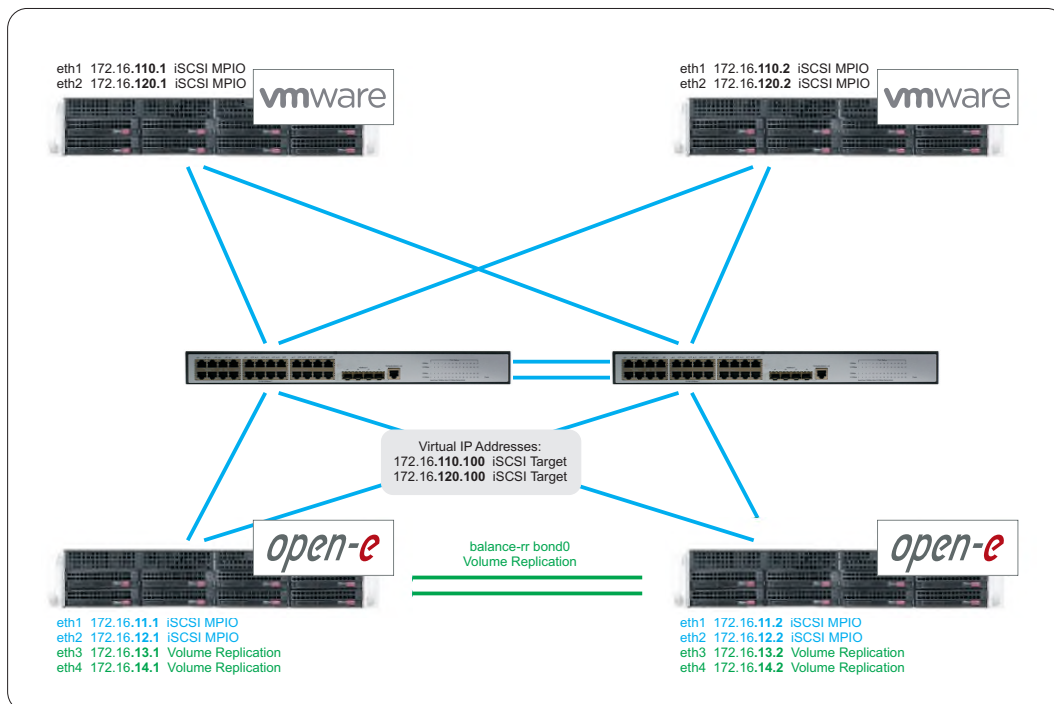Germany
Great Britain
Italy
Mexico
United States

The solution

Every remote location of OPTIMA uses two servers with Open-E Data Storage Software V7 as an iSCSI Failover Cluster on cost-effective commodity hardware as well as two VMware ESX host servers. Apart from an uninterruptable power supply, the company implemented a backup / management server with an LTO drive. All other storage systems work on virtual machines. The storage is directly connected to the VMware hosts by multipath I/O and 1GbE network cards.

The minimum configuration contains 2 x 1Gbit Multipath for iSCSI, 2 x 1Gbit for storage replication and 4TB of capacity on SATA or SAS drives with a hardware RAID controller. Depending on the size and requirements of the subsidiary, flexible scalability is possible: more network cards for the iSCSI connection, more disks and a significant increase in I/O due to the Active-Active iSCSI Failover feature in Open-E DSS V7.

Simple setup with two Multipath I/O paths

Summary

OPTIMA compared Open-E DSS V7 to the Fibre Channel SAN of a well-known competitor during the decision making process for a suitable storage system. After significant due diligence, OPTIMA chose Open-E DSS V7 because of its scalability, worldwide availability of the product and implementation costs. The software is hardware-independent which is why local hardware partners could be included. This way, the company was able to implement a fully mirrored storage system with the same investment.

Manuel Kuss, System Administrator with OPTIMA
"Apart from its flexibility, it was the stability of the Open-E systems that convinced me. We benefit from the hardware redundancy in lieu of not having any technical contact on-site in remote locations. The system keeps running even if hardware components fail, and can easily be rebooted even after power outages. By using commodity servers, we do not face any problems regarding hardware supplies and do not need to use any specific SAN disk drives."