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For more information, contact:
David Onigman
Sanbolic Inc.
Phone: +1 617 833 4249
Fax: +1 617 926 2808
Email: onigman@sanbolic.com
URL: www.sanbolic.com

German Government Agency Scales out Citrix XenApp on a fully virtualized platform using Sanbolic's Melio Clustered File System

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BGHW, a government agencies headquartered in Mannheim, Germany recently deployed a large Citrix XenApp solution on a fully virtualized platform using Sanbolic's Melio FS for SAN storage access. The installation uses Citrix's XenServer server virtualization platform, running multiple XenApp workloads on a single bare metal server. Citrix Provisioning Server is used to dynamically provision server workloads on demand.

Sanbolic's Melio clustered file system provides the Provisioning Servers with concurrent, block-level access to an IBM Fibre Channel SAN. BGHW now runs 32 Citrix XenServers and 64 Citrix XenApp servers using a variety of workload configurations. With consistent and resilient high-performance access to Provisioning Server virtual disks, load-balancing as well as workload failover can be achieved. The nested virtualization solution for XenApp enhances both the flexibility and availability of BGHW's application delivery infrastructure. Workloads can be easily moved among servers while shared storage access facilitates load balancing and failover of active workloads. The new deployment allows BGHW to increase their goGreen IT-strategy by dynamically provisioning the requested workloads while storage and complexity costs are dramatically reduced.

BGHW (Berufsgenossenschaft Handel und Warendistribution) is a German government agency that is responsible for providing employee insurance, accident prevention, and employee care for retail, wholesale, and warehousing firms. They are part of a nation-wide employee care system specific to Germany, covering more than 4 million people. To design and integrate the solution, BGHW worked with net.workers AG, a highly experienced German consultancy and reseller with expertise in the area of networking, security, and application solutions. Net.workers AG serves as a competence center for application delivery within Controlware GmbH, a highly reputable systems-integrator with enterprise customer coverage throughout Germany and Europe and more than 25 years of market presence.

Sanbolic's Melio clustered file system and LaScala clustered volume manager install easily on physical or virtual servers and can utilize any fibre channel or iSCSI storage hardware. Sanbolic's software allows multiple Citrix Provisioning Servers to have concurrent read/write shared access to a SAN volume, while utilizing full performance of the SAN hardware. This enables failover and load balancing of streaming workloads across multiple PVS servers.

“Due to the nature of Citrix Provisioning Services in conjunction with high-density XenApp workloads, each enterprise deployment requires reliable and fail-safe centralized storage integration at superior I/O rates. Sanbolic allowed us to achieve best-performance results, offered outstanding support, and had a remarkable conceptual understanding on the business case – while keeping us independent of specific storage vendors or architecture,” said Thorsten Rood, Principal Architect at net.workers AG. “MelioFS has become a standard component in our Citrix PVS design blueprint.”

Sanbolic software currently supports Microsoft Windows Server 2003 R2, Windows Server 2008, including Server Core, and Windows Server 2008 R2. Melio can provide shared SAN storage access for Windows application servers running on VMware ESX, Hyper-V, or Citrix XenServer. Sanbolic distributes its product solutions worldwide through a network of distributors, OEMs, VARs and system integrators.

About Sanbolic, Inc.

Sanbolic, Inc is a Watertown, Massachusetts-based company that provides software for simplifying and sharing SAN storage. Sanbolic's products extend the capability of Windows applications by allowing SAN storage to be easily administered, expanded and reassigned, while supporting shared data access to improve application availability and/or application scalability. Further information about Sanbolic can be found on its website www.sanbolic.com.

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