

dualutions

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Keeping premium beer flowing to meet global demand.

How **Krombacher Brauerei** used Lenovo ThinkAgile VX solutions to streamline and modernize its IT, enabling flexible scalability to support future SAP S/4HANA workloads to help optimize the supply chain.

Lenovo Infrastructure Solutions
for The Data-Centered



Krombacher

Lenovo

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Background

Krombacher Brauerei is the largest private brewery in Germany and one of the most modern breweries in Europe. Founded in 1803, Krombacher has been family-owned for generations and produces a range of premium beers of the highest quality.

The company is well-known around the world for its premium lager, made using centuries-old brewing craft combined with state-of-the-art technology. The sustainable use of raw materials, such as the naturally soft rock spring water from a local source, is key to Krombacher's continued success.

At Krombacher, around 1,000 people work together to create high-quality products with a regional identity. The corporate culture is built on trust and quick decision-making, providing employees with freedom, fostering creativity, and empowering innovation.

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Challenge

Krombacher aims to ensure that customers around the world can always count on the steady supply of its tasty beers. Managing the annual production of more than 600 million liters of beer and the distribution to wholesalers, retailers, restaurants, hotels, and customers around the globe is a major challenge.

Adding to the logistics complexity are Krombacher's highly popular marketing campaigns, which can generate massive interest at peak times, such as during top-league football matches, races, and other events.

Jan Spuhler, IT System Administrator at Krombacher Brauerei, says: "The whole company revolves around creating a perfect customer experience. It starts with our traditional art of brewing using natural ingredients and our efforts continue all the way until our product is in the customer's hand. Driving these complex, integrated business processes cost-efficiently is only possible because of our cutting-edge SAP business systems. If our IT systems went offline, our supply chain would grind to a halt."

Why Lenovo? Future-proofing IT with fast, cost-efficient HCI solutions.

To continue to drive high levels of operational efficiency in its production planning, manufacturing, and supply chain operations, Krombacher aims to make sure the mission-critical data center infrastructure for its SAP solutions is available 24/7.

“To future-proof our IT, we targeted a modular and scalable solution,” explains Spuhler. “Increasing flexibility and redundancy across all vital business applications—while reducing the administration burden for our IT team—were our key objectives.”

Lenovo partner dualutions GmbH had already been working closely with Krombacher for many years. Krombacher consulted dualutions for advice on how to take its IT infrastructure to the next level. “We have a great relationship with dualutions,” remarks Spuhler. “The team at dualutions knows us and our requirements, they were the ideal partner with in-depth expertise to design a tailored solution for our business.”

dualutions evaluated a range of options for Krombacher. To meet the performance requirements and provide business agility for the future, dualutions recommended a hyperconverged infrastructure (HCI) solution from Lenovo.





“Our partner dualutions identified HCI as a powerful opportunity to enhance the reliability and scalability of our IT infrastructure. Based on their experience of different vendors, dualutions convinced us that Lenovo’s HCI offerings are the right fit for us: high performance with a lean physical footprint and the leading TCO in the market.”

Jan Spuhler

IT System Administrator, Krombacher Brauerei

Optimized for performance, flexibility, and compatibility.

Together with dualutions, Krombacher deployed ten Lenovo ThinkAgile VX Series Certified Nodes for SAP HANA with VMware HCI software that are pre-installed and pre-configured. The Lenovo ThinkAgile VX platform uses VMware vSAN® and VMware vSphere® virtualization technology to deliver a single pool of compute and storage resources.

The team implemented the Lenovo XClarity Administrator management software to streamline system administration across all cluster nodes. Virtual machines and application workloads are managed with VMware vCenter®. To ensure business continuity in all situations, Krombacher relies on Veeam Backup & Replication running on the Lenovo ThinkAgile VX cluster.

As part of an ongoing project to modernize its mission-critical SAP ERP business applications, Krombacher is also expanding its cluster with additional nodes to run the next-generation SAP S/4HANA business suite. Thanks to the Lenovo Solution for SAP HANA on ThinkAgile VX, Krombacher can use a single platform for all applications and in-memory databases, with all benefits of VMware virtualization.

The trusted relationship between Krombacher, dualutions, and Lenovo goes beyond the data center. The company also leverages 600 Lenovo ThinkPad T Series notebooks to give its business users fast and flexible access to information and tools from the office, the home office, and on the go.

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Results

Thanks to the Lenovo ThinkAgile VX solution, Krombacher has increased the level of virtualization and automation. “We’ve accelerated provisioning and streamlined system administration, reducing IT costs and taking IT efficiency to new heights,” remarks Spuhler. “By replacing separate storage devices and networking equipment with a hyperconverged platform, we’ve cut the management workload, eliminated storage bottlenecks, and strengthened the reliability and transparency of our IT infrastructure.”

Using vSAN, VMware’s HCI solution, Krombacher saves 50 TB of storage space with compression and achieves a deduplication ratio of 1.66. The new solution provides better value for money than other options Krombacher considered, while also allowing for better redundancy across all mission-critical business applications, including in-memory solutions such as SAP HANA.

Spuhler comments: “With the Lenovo ThinkAgile VX platform, we can easily scale up compute or storage resources as needed at any time without interruptions for business users or processes. By embracing the growing trend for HCI, we also find highly qualified staff for our team more easily, which is another major benefit for the company.”



Accelerates provisioning and streamlines system administration



50 TB of storage space saved with compression and deduplication ratio of 1.66



Provides cost-efficient hyperconverged platform with leading TCO



Boosts performance while maintaining small physical footprint in the data center



“With our trusted partner dualutions we now have a single point of contact for our entire IT infrastructure, streamlining support and maintenance. In addition, Lenovo also provides our notebook solutions, driving up the efficiency of our IT support processes further still.”

Jan Spuhler

IT System Administrator, Krombacher Brauerei



“Being able to respond faster to new business requirements by simplifying provisioning with the Lenovo ThinkAgile VX platform is crucial to keep our customers happy in a dynamically changing world.”

Jan Spuhler

IT System Administrator, Krombacher Brauerei

What will you do with Lenovo ThinkAgile VX solutions?

The Data-Centered ensure a steady supply of high-quality beer with
Lenovo smarter infrastructure solutions, powered by VMware.

[Explore Lenovo ThinkAgile VX Solutions](#)

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