



Overview

The need

The IT team at Kronopol was devoting increasing amounts of time on maintaining and administering the growing databases that supported the company's SAP applications. Related business-critical functions, such as daily backups, were also affected by increasing data volumes. Kronopol needed a solution that would support the data explosion resulting from business growth, while keeping IT spending lean.

The solution

Kronopol signed a five-year outsourcing contract with IBM, which included migrating the company's critical SAP applications to IBM® DB2®. The project was carried out over a period of 10 months, with no interruption to business processes. IBM DB2 was implemented on IBM Power Systems™ servers linked to IBM System Storage DS®, managed by IBM System Storage® SAN Volume Controller software. The solution was configured for high availability with IBM PowerHA® and Enqueue Replication Server technology. Backup and recovery have been handled using IBM Tivoli® Storage Manager software.

Kronopol

Improves data management and cuts IT costs with SAP and IBM DB2 outsourcing solution

Founded in 1994 and based in Zary, Poland, Kronopol Sp. z o. o. operates as a subsidiary of the Swiss Krono Holding AG – a world leader in the wood-based products industry. With the most modern production lines, and more than a hundred years of experience of the Krono Group, the company delivers products of the highest quality and esthetic parameters. Currently, Kronopol manufactures more than 1.5 million cubic meters of wood-based panels annually.

Kronopol was looking for a solution that would not only address its immediate data management needs and cut storage costs, but also offer a strategic solution to help manage long-term data growth. IBM DB2 was chosen for its ability to provide significant data compression, and for its potential to reduce database support costs for the SAP environment at Kronopol.

At present, the solution runs on IBM POWER7® processor-based servers, ensuring maximum performance and reliability. The majority of migrations were achieved with no major changes to the SAP systems.

In total, Kronopol has migrated almost 20 SAP systems to DB2, including five production instances and two legacy systems. All operations were done using standard SAP migration tools, such as heterogeneous system copy. Most planned database outages to support the upgrade from MaxDB to DB2 lasted significantly less than 48 hours, keeping business disruption to a minimum.

Taking advantage of IBM DB2

By implementing IBM DB2, Kronopol has achieved its business goal of cutting the cost and complexity of its SAP database management.

The largest SAP system was originally 2.5 TB; after migration to DB2 and compression, the database size was reduced to 0.9 TB, which corresponds to a compression rate of 64 percent.



The benefit

Leveraging the deep compression feature in IBM DB2, Kronopol reduced its database volumes by an average of 60 percent, successfully controlling and reducing its IT spending. Furthermore, turning over administrative activities to IBM Global Technology Services, Kronopol's IT team has been able to focus on innovative new projects rather than on managing the existing infrastructure.

Solution components

Software

- IBM® DB2® for Linux, UNIX and Windows
- IBM System Storage® SAN Volume Controller
- IBM Tivoli® Storage Manager

Hardware

- IBM PowerHA®
- IBM Power Systems™
- IBM System Storage DS®

Services

- IBM Global Technology Services®
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— Mr. Marek Ługowski, IT Manager, Kronopol

By downsizing its SAP databases with IBM DB2, the company has reduced its storage requirements, significantly cutting costs. Similarly, the reduced complexity of DB2 has allowed Kronopol IT to respond more rapidly to demands from its application development group to create required test systems.

IBM DB2 used by Kronopol today provides a reliable, robust and easily manageable database platform. Also the time required to develop necessary database management skills was shorter than expected. Finally, combining database migration with hardware platform upgrade proved to be a very good decision for the company.

Delivering business benefits

The database migration was delivered by the IBM team, and met all objectives and project milestones in a smooth and timely manner. And despite the scale of the project, end-user experience was unaffected during the solution implementation. Kronopol business-critical functions were not disturbed and the company could soon enjoy fast return on investment.

“Shrinking the database size after migration from SAP MaxDB to IBM DB2 had a significant impact on lowering the Total Cost of Ownership of the IT Infrastructure. It has also had a significant positive impact on speeding up transaction processing as well as backup/restore time,” says Mr. Marek Ługowski, Kronopol IT Manager.

Moreover, tangible benefits in range of performance were noticed by the company end-users. Among many positive changes, the response time for dialog steps was reduced from 1500 milliseconds to 500 milliseconds, which was three times faster than before. Experiencing benefits far greater than originally anticipated, Kronopol remains convinced that its partnership with IBM was a good choice.

“The IBM team responsible for database project delivery has proven their high professional skills and competency. The migration process went without any major complications, within the time frame which has been estimated during testing phase,” says Mr. Ługowski.

At the same time, Krono Group decided to transfer responsibility for administering the IT infrastructure to IBM Global Technology Services. As a result, Kronopol's IT team has been able to focus more attention on systems development projects that are more closely related to business activities.

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Looking to the future

After reducing its database volumes by an average of 60 percent with DB2 compression technologies, Kronopol expects to keep its IT spending stable for five years by delaying the need for additional processor and disk storage capacity, thanks to the IBM outsourcing solution.

For more information

To learn more about how IBM can help you transform your business, please contact your IBM sales representative or IBM Business Partner.

Visit us at: www.ibm.com/software/data/db2

For more information about IBM System Storage SAN Volume Controller, visit:

www.ibm.com/systems/storage/software/virtualization/svc/index.html

For more information about IBM Tivoli Storage Manager, visit:

www.ibm.com/software/products/us/en/tivoli-storage-manager-family

For more information about Kronopol, Sp. z o.o., visit:

www.kronopol.com.pl



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