

PROVIDING RELIABLE ENERGY WITH MICROSOFT® HYPER-V



DELIVERING CLEAN ENERGY

4Gas BV, based in the Netherlands, is dedicated to developing and operating liquefied natural gas (LNG) import and re-gasification terminals. 4Gas is the world's only independent LNG-terminal company with a global reach. The company is developing terminals in continental Europe, North America and Asia. With its terminal projects 4Gas is in a unique position to serve markets on both sides of the Atlantic Basin and in Asia, which provides lucrative arbitrage opportunities for suppliers.

SOLUTIONS

- Virtualization
- Consolidation
- Backup/recovery



COMPANY: 4Gas BV
COUNTRY: Netherlands
INDUSTRY: Energy & Power
WEB: www.4gas.com

Challenge

The 4Gas IT department was tasked to convert their existing environment comprised of stand-alone servers and archaic local storage to a fully virtualized infrastructure with redundant centralized SAN storage and high availability. 4Gas needed full compatibility with Microsoft Windows Server 2008 R2.

Solution

4Gas deployed Microsoft Windows Server 2008 with Microsoft Hyper-V technology to run on iQstor Fibre Channel SAN, iQ2880T. Running Microsoft Hyper-V R2 clusters, integrated with the iQstor SAN Services streamlined administration and improved performance.

Benefits

- Full compatibility with Microsoft applications and major savings on software license
- Reduced physical servers by 80% and offered high availability
- Improved storage utilization and capacity scalability
- Lowered operating costs for power and cooling in the data center provided immediate savings
- Secure, fast and efficient data backup and recovery
- No hidden license costs for future storage expansions

“We are early adopters and have implemented one of the first successful Hyper-V R2 installations with Windows 2008 R2 in Holland. 4Gas appreciates the service and response time from iQstor.”

- Hugo van der Laan, IT manager of 4Gas



HOW IT WORKS

STORAGE HARDWARE

- iQ2880T system with 6.75TB FC disk as production storage
- J2880 expansion with 15TB SATA disk for data archive and snapshots / backup
- Full suite of iQstor data management and protection software

SERVER HARDWARE

- 2x Dell PowerEdge 2950 with Quad core Xeon and 48 GB memory

SOLUTION SOFTWARE

- Full compatibility with Microsoft applications and major savings on software license
- Microsoft Windows Server 2008 R2 with Hyper-V
- SCVMM R2 for Hyper-V management
- Commvault Simpana 8 backup and data management suite

SERVICE AND INTEGRATION

- SJ-Solutions professional services team (iQstor partner)
- Proxsys (Microsoft Gold Partner)

CHALLENGING REQUIREMENTS

4Gas has multiple projects running simultaneously in various countries in the world. In order to support the operations, 4Gas needed a high availability of service, centralized storage for business data, accessibility of data from any place, any time, any device in a secure way, and the ability to expand service to various projects and outside parties.

As with all enterprises, the storage needs were increasing exponentially. With IT administrative expertise at a premium, exponential growth in storage needs was placing a large burden on the budget of the 4Gas group. Further compounding this burden was the low utilization of available storage and many unnecessary complexities that increased storage TCO. Correcting this situation would provide an enormous return on investment for the IT department. 4Gas found a better way to manage the costs, utilization, and complexities of storing information with the help of SJ-Solutions and iQstor.

VIRTUALIZED INFRASTRUCTURE

When it came time to streamline their infrastructure, 4Gas chose SJ-Solutions to provide expertise for their server virtualization and storage consolidation project. Proxsys assisted in configuring the Hyper-V R2 cluster and setup of SCVMM R2. The Microsoft Windows Server 2008 R2 operating system provided needed overall reliability, performance, and support for a broad range of professional hardware and software solutions.

“We did not have centralized storage, but storage in every physical server which gave limitations on expanding or doing virtualization. By

purchasing the iQ2880T storage system, we were able to reduce the number of physical servers by 80% and offer high availability.” said Hugo van der Laan, IT manager of 4Gas. “We use our SAN in combination with Windows Server 2008 R2 Hyper-V clusters. Currently we have 19 servers running divided over 2 cluster hosts. All servers have been virtualized. Using our new solution, we have flexibility in maintaining all our servers but also can easily expand storage capacity. This will save us a lot of administrative work and energy.”

MORE VALUE, LESS COST

4Gas working with SJ-Solutions and Proxsys has successfully installed one of the first Hyper-V R2 solutions in the Netherlands and is considered to be one of the early adopters. They immediately experienced significant productivity improvement, cost savings, and higher data availability. The performance benefits alone have been significant.

“We chose the iQ2880T over the competition because of its enterprise storage functionality for mid-range companies, its price, performance and scalability, and its software suite offers exactly the feature we needed.” added Hugo van der Laan, “iQstor and SJ-Solutions are excellent partners for our storage and backup solution.”

Gas and energy providers are under increasing pressure to deliver ahead of schedule. Workflow efficiency and the ability to rapidly iterate through the phases of an LNG project are fundamental to success and contractual obligations. To help meet these challenges, iQstor and SJ-Solutions partnered together to provide a range of high-powered solutions based on the iQstor storage and the Windows Hyper-V R2 environment. Whether industries require centralized data management or disaster recovery systems, solutions built on iQstor storage systems enable customers to get the work done faster and more efficiently.