

»This is how I imagine a perfect migration process to be: secure, professional, error-free, precisely tailored to our needs, and all of this while keeping to the deadlines. The migration of productive SAP systems took place on a weekend. It couldn't have gone better.«

Thomas Hanzl,
Head of IT, Novoferm



SAP on Linux at Novoferm.

More Security, Lower Costs.



Customer

- We make the perfect garage door!
With more than 2,000 employees, Novoferm is one of the largest European system suppliers of doors, garage doors, frames, and operators for use in the private, trade, and industrial sectors. Founded in 1955, the company manufactures in various locations in western Europe and Asia and distributes its products to many countries across the globe. Since October 2003, Novoferm is part of the Japanese Sanwa Holdings Group. The company's philosophy is based on a simple principle: quality, not quantity. It offers products that meet the highest standards in quality, security, convenience, and aesthetics – at a minimal cost. www.novoferm.de

Initial situation The Novoferm product promise was both a challenge and a standard for the IT experts at arvato systems. Novoferm, based in the Lower Rhine town of Rees, decided to switch from Unix to Linux for its SAP application platform. In doing so, the international supplier of doors, garage doors, frames, and operators has opted for a solution that offers more performance and more security, while decreasing running costs, as have many other companies, from SMEs to global players.

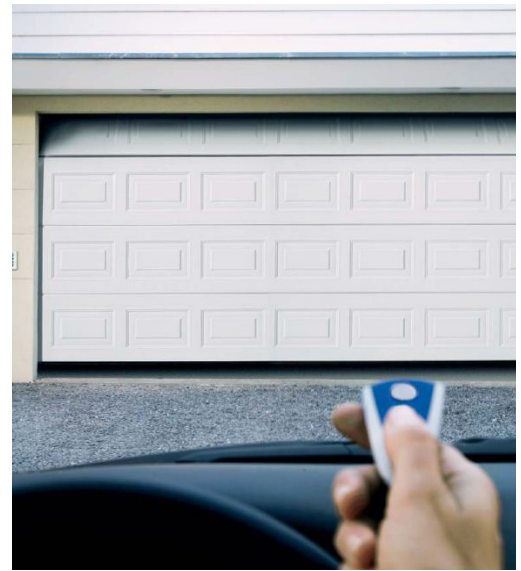
The key points for arvato systems as a Novoferm partner were clearly defined: Despite the enormous database and the extremely short time frame for the migration, the IT experts had to ensure seamless data transfer, without disrupting business operations.

Eliminating all risks No experiments – this was the main rule of thumb during the system migration. Novoferm handed the entire migration over to arvato systems and only had to become involved again during the test phase. The process up to this point was clearly defined: As the first step, the existing SAP databases on UNIX systems were backed up by the existing IT provider and transferred to arvato systems' data center in Gütersloh. All tasks during the migration to Linux took place here under real conditions but not while real day-to-day operations were ongoing. This meant that there was never the threat of disruptions to Novoferm's business processes. The live changeover only took place after the migration had been completed and extensive tests had been carried out together with Novoferm's IT managers.

The migration to Linux resolved in advance the existing performance issues with Novoferm's database. The 2.5-TB database was reorganized and was thereby reduced by 20% during the transition. It now works twice as fast as before migration.

»Novoferm makes the perfect garage door.
With SAP on Linux, we at arvato systems provided the perfect IT environment for this company.«

Karsten Lienau,
Project manager, arvato systems



Working without interruptions Careful preparation and the fastest possible implementation by arvato systems ensured the ambitious schedule could be kept:

- Project launch in September 2009
- Migration completed in November 2009

Everything was completed in a single weekend – the migration itself took just ten hours. For Novoferm, this meant that employees could continue to use the existing database until Friday evening and, by the start of business on Monday morning, the new system with SAP on Linux was already up and running.

Exploiting the benefits The SAP on Linux changeover reduced the company costs by using more cost-effective hardware and by reducing the size of the database. However, money was also saved by the use of low-cost, standardized, and freely available Linux clusters, which ensured additional operational security. At the same time, cost-intensive special solutions were deliberately avoided in the interest of system flexibility and sustainability. Other advantages: All SAP standard products are available to Linux, and the scalability offered by additional application servers ensures a high degree of scalability. The performance of Linux systems for SAP operations has moved closer to traditional UNIX systems thanks to technological advances.

Benefiting from experience arvato systems is one of the first providers to implement SAP in Linux migrations. It has acquired vast, in-depth experience in over ten years of successfully implementing optimized customer solutions. The company has professionally migrated databases from 5 GB to 9 TB in size for both SMEs and major corporations.

Any questions? Please contact us.

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As a global systems integrator, arvato systems implements tailored, industry-specific, and custom-developed solutions in addition to standard software. 1,700 dedicated employees work at the company's 25 sites throughout the world. Our customers appreciate the combination of intensive industry expertise, technological knowledge spanning all manufacturers, genuine partnership, and true entrepreneurial spirit. With our range of products and services, we help pave the way for your successful operations.

An Overview of the Case

Benefits

- Excellent value for the money
- In-depth experience
- Standardized production processes
- Customized to suit the customer's needs
- Highest security standards (e.g., ISO27001 certificate)
- Sustainable solutions
- Successful implementation for proprietary SAP systems
- Personalized support
- Efficient and fast implementation