



"I've had previous successful experiences with MIMIX High Availability solutions. Syan, the Vision Solutions business partner, offered a perfect fit between the IBM System i and the MIMIX solution."

Jonathan Allen, Infrastructure Coordinator at Devro

Business Profile

Company name:
Devro PLC

Headquarters:
Moodiesburn (Glasgow), Scotland

Revenues:
£152 million (GPB) annually

Industry:
Collagen products for the food,
medical and cosmetics industries

Employees: 2,200

Business Environment:

- World's leading provider of collagen products for sausages, wieners, salami, hams and other cooked meats
- Also produces plastic casings and purified collagen raw materials for medical and cosmetic use
- Operates manufacturing facilities in the UK, USA, Czech Republic and Australia
- Must avoid IT downtime to ensure continuous business operations

Implementation Team:
Syan, UK

Vision Solutions Product:
MIMIX® HA for i5/OS®

Critical Issue

Devro requires a high availability (HA) solution to provide business continuity and reduce the potential impact of system downtime on stock levels, customer delivery schedules and incoming orders.

Results

- Guaranteed maximum business outage of one hour.
- Unprecedented protection against downtime and data loss.
- Easy management and control of solution.
- Seamless, accurate, real-time availability of information, applications, and systems.

Technologies

- MIMIX® HA for i5/OS® from Vision Solutions
- 2 IBM® System i Model 820 servers
- JD Edwards® OneWorld™ ERP software from Oracle®

Business Challenge

The Devro corporate philosophy states: "Teamwork and cooperation will be the key to success while integrity, quality and service will serve as unifying principles." Devro expects its business to achieve and maintain a leadership position, while responsibly managing its impact on the environment.

With such high standards of corporate ethics, and already running a truly state-of-the-art ICT configuration, it was important that a solution to their availability requirement was in the same high-flying spirit.

When Devro initiated a strategic review into its business continuity processes, the team determined that the company needed to reduce its time to recovery. To put the least pressure on stock levels, customer delivery schedules and incoming orders, the Devro management team put together a strategy which dictated that the maximum allowed business outage had to come down to one day.



Solution

Devro contacted Syan, the Vision Solutions business partner in the UK and Devro's IBM® hardware specialist. They knew all the ins and outs of High Availability, and swiftly moved into action with MIMIX® HA for i5/OS® from Vision Solutions.

“Cooperation with Syan went very well, very smoothly. We installed MIMIX on our then Model 720 machines, replicating the data with no problem at all,” said Jonathan Allen, Infrastructure Coordinator at Devro.

Devro is currently in the process of upgrading its IBM System i Model 820 machines to include dynamic logical partitioning (LPAR). LPAR provides a streamlined framework for systems consolidation on System i servers. With new capabilities such as uncapped partitions, unused processor capacity on System i servers can be automatically shared, based on business priorities. LPAR is being installed to help implement Devro's disaster recovery strategy.

“When we did the hardware upgrade and moved to MIMIX, it was more of the same: a very professional job, a very smooth transition,” said Allen.

Alan Platt, Syan's Director of Project Services, said, “The implementation project included initial planning, purchase of the software, management of the hardware upgrade and installation of a pre-configured version of MIMIX. Based on feedback, we tuned the HA solution to Devro's explicit needs, and three days later MIMIX received the ‘operational’ stamp of approval.”

Devro management had set the bar at one day for any business outage. Thanks to MIMIX, they now have a guaranteed maximum business downtime of merely one hour.

Allen concluded, “In terms of ROI, our MIMIX solution is already paying for itself. And that is without taking into account the potential value to the business if we ever need it in future.”



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