



*“With ORION, Klaus Kroschke Holding GmbH & Co. KG is able to swap to the failover server within 15 minutes with minimal interruption to the business. ORION is easy to configure and administer, and offers a level of protection and security that was simply not available before”*

IT Director, Klaus Kroschke Holding GmbH & KG

## **Safety-signage, personal safety and working safety specialist Klaus Kroschke Holding secures its operational systems with Orion**

### **The Challenge**

In the event of a failure of its business-critical systems, safety specialist Klaus Kroschke Holding GmbH & Co. KG was relying on recovery procedures which involved a high degree of manual intervention. To support a mixed environment including both IBM System i5 and Microsoft Windows environments, the company looked for a solution that would provide recovery from failure within two hours and introduce enhanced system resilience.

### **The Solution**

Klaus Kroschke Holding GmbH & Co. KG introduced ORION Professional Standard Edition for i5 from Vision Solutions, which maintains a continuous backup of all production data. Should the principal server fail, operations can be switched to a reserve server in around 15 minutes.

### **The Benefits**

With automated system mirroring, Klaus Kroschke Holding GmbH & Co. KG has eliminated its reliance on manual data backup and recovery procedures, saving time and expense. Even in the case of failure, downtime has been cut to a matter of minutes, offering greater resilience and allowing continued business operations.

Klaus Kroschke Holding GmbH & Co. KG is a manufacturer and retailer for safety-signage, personal safety and working safety. From toughened footwear to hazard tape, parking signs to name badges, the company has an extensive and highly detailed on-line catalog of its wide range of safety-signage and products.

From the head office in Braunschweig, Lower Saxony, Germany, and with operations in Klosterneuburg, Lower Austria, the company sells throughout Europe. The central IT service is located in Braunschweig and provides support for manufacturing, distribution and online sales activities, as well as Microsoft office productivity applications such as Exchange Server and Office.

The company continues to thrive, depending on ERP applications—production and catalog data – managed on IBM System i5 servers. The IT Director at Klaus Kroschke Holding GmbH & KG, explains, “Continued success brings greater demands from customers, and it became clear that we needed to protect the company against server failure. We did not have a high availability solution in place, and were faced with the possibility of lengthy and unpredictable downtime, requiring heavy manual intervention for recovery.

“The challenge was to create a high-availability infrastructure for the i5 server, to secure and safeguard business processes and data, and to minimise potential outage time to less than two hours in case of failure – without disrupting current systems and at a cost-effective price point.”



### Choosing a solution

Klaus Kroschke Holding GmbH & Co. KG turned to Vision Solutions, selecting ORION Professional Standard Edition for i5. The software is specifically configured for very high availability, with integrated features to allow rapid failover to a standby server.

ORION continuously replicates live data to a nominated failover server, at very low system overhead and with real-time data integrity validation. Should the primary server fail, ORION includes advanced control features that ensure automated switchover to minimize downtime, offering extended uptime for business operations.

“With ORION, Klaus Kroschke Holding GmbH & Co. KG is able to swap to the failover server within 15 minutes, with minimal interruption to the business. ORION is easy to configure and administer, and offers a level of protection and security that was simply not available before,” says the IT director of Klaus Kroschke Holding GmbH & Co. KG.

Not only can ORION protect against unplanned system outages, but it also enables production to be switched between servers in a planned manner—facilitating upgrades and updates. Such benefits contribute to the enhanced levels of service that the IT department is now able to offer to the business.

### Safeguarding data integrity

The ORION solution uses multiple levels of replication integrity, checking byte for byte that the data being replicated is 100% identical on both the source and target servers, so that a transition from one system to another is absolutely seamless.

The ORION interface is easy to use, and incorporates a very high degree of automation. Once system preferences are set, recovery procedures require little or no manual intervention, dramatically reducing maintenance and administration costs.

As well as the business workflow, finances and catalog data which are managed on the i5 servers, the IT service at Klaus Kroschke Holding provides email and calendaring using Microsoft Exchange Server, running on Microsoft Windows.

ORION for Windows can offer the same high levels of resilience and recovery for the Windows environment, including Exchange mail files and configurations, applications and user data.

Klaus Kroschke Holding GmbH & Co. KG is currently looking at introducing ORION for Windows, too. The IT Director agrees, “ORION for i5 gives Klaus Kroschke Holding GmbH & Co. KG excellent protection for business operations, and has addressed the company’s continuity needs in an elegant and cost-effective manner.”



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