



Plumrose Latinoamericana beefs up business with SAP and IBM

Plumrose Latinoamericana, a member of the East Asiatic Company group, is one of South America's leading meat processors. From headquarters in Caracas, Venezuela, and in Valencia, Puerto La Cruz, Maracaibo, Ciudad Bolívar and Barquisimeto, the company employs approximately 2,000 people, and sells foods around the world.

Since 1998 Plumrose had been running SAP components such as SAP Business Information Warehouse and SAP Advanced Planner & Optimizer on a distributed Intel environment. Maintaining these servers proved costly, with multiple license fees as well as the need for air conditioning and other power requirements. The time and effort required to back up each server individually, while offline, also drove up costs. End users experienced slowed response times with the distributed environment.

José Faría, IT Manager, says, "Plumrose wanted to run its SAP solutions from a new, centralized and easily maintained environment that would improve the cost-efficiency and productivity of IT, and also raise the productivity of the company's end users. Our objective was to position the business with a strategic platform for future growth."

Choosing the best way forward

Plumrose engaged IBM Global Services Business Consulting Services to help create the new SAP solution landscape and plan the migration methodology.

"We worked with IBM Global Services Business Consulting Services throughout all stages of the process, and we have always been tremendously impressed by their professionalism and expertise," comments José Faría.

"The IBM team brought a new way of looking at our business, and helped us plan both the technical and the business changes that enable us to deliver the best service for our SAP solution. This has cut our costs and given us the performance our users need," says José Faría.

Plumrose migrated to an IBM **@server** pSeries 650 server for core SAP systems, with SAP Business Warehouse and Business Intelligence solutions running on the Microsoft Windows 2000 operating system, in an IBM eServer BladeCenter chassis. Storage systems were also renewed, with the implementation of IBM TotalStorage DS and FASTT storage servers.

Overview

■ The Challenge

Cut costs of distributed SAP system servers
Introduce reliable backup and restore services for the company
Provide scalable solution capable of managing future growth

■ The Solution

Industry: Consumer Products
Application: SAP BW and APO, mySAP Supply Chain Management, mySAP CRM
Hardware: IBM **@server**® pSeries™ 650, IBM **@server**® BladeCenter blade servers, IBM TotalStorage® DS4500 (formerly FASTT900) and FASTT500 Storage Servers, IBM TotalStorage 3583 Tape Library
Software: IBM FlashCopy for DS4000, Tivoli® Storage Manager
Services: IBM Global Services Business Consulting Services

■ The Benefits

Cut administration costs by consolidating to IBM BladeCenter
Improved response time for users, enhancing productivity



Ensuring business continuity

Alongside the xSeries solution, the IBM team established a fast and reliable data backup infrastructure. This includes two IBM TotalStorage FASTt500 Storage Servers, one with IBM FlashCopy; one IBM TotalStorage DS4500 Storage Server [formerly called IBM TotalStorage FASTt900] with FlashCopy; seven IBM TotalStorage SAN Fibre Channel Switches; and one IBM TotalStorage 3583 Tape Library with four LTO2 tape drives. SAP data backup is handled by IBM Tivoli Storage Manager.

"The purpose is to ensure not only that Plumrose secures all its critical data, but also that our administration costs are cut and our productivity rises. The IBM solution delivers the business performance Plumrose needs for the next stage of growth," says José Faría.

Plumrose decreased its daily data backup and restore time from ten offline hours to two online hours with the LAN-free backup capabilities of IBM Tivoli Storage Manager software running on IBM TotalStorage hardware.

"Prior to the DS4500 storage solution, response times were at around seven seconds, due to the sheer weight of data. With DS4500, response is subsecond, an incredible improvement for our business productivity.

"IBM systems are very robust indeed," comments José Faría. "Both pSeries and BladeCenter are stable and reliable, with high scalability and excellent performance."

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José Faría, IT Manager

Doing more with less

Plumrose's four IBM @server

BladeCenter blade servers handle the same workload as the previous, stand-alone Intel servers, increasing administration efficiency and reducing license and data center energy costs.

"The IBM blade servers allow us to consolidate our operations, saving in floorspace and administration. The new system is very easy to run, and where we used to have two or even three physical servers, we now place the workload on just one blade server, a major cost saving. Running multiple applications on one compact Blade Server means that our infrastructure is simpler, and easier to control," says José Faría.

Planning for the future

Looking ahead, José Faría constantly evaluates new technologies, and defines the standards and strategy for Plumrose.

"Regarding long-term goals, it makes more sense to choose and stay with a company that you know will be around for the future. Working with IBM Global Services Business Consulting Services, at Plumrose we have created an SAP solution that has raised our productivity and provided a great opportunity for us to build business for tomorrow," he concludes.



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