

Innogy Achieves a 20% Increase in Performance of SAP Application

Using Zadara's enterprise storage-as-a-service, Innogy increases storage agility, stability, performance, and efficiency.



Formerly RWE, Innogy is one of Europe's leading electricity and gas companies. Headquartered in Germany, they serve their home market, the Netherlands, United Kingdom, Czech Republic and various other markets across Europe. Through their expertise in oil, gas and lignite production, electricity generation from gas, coal, nuclear and renewables, energy trading, distribution and sales, they are active at all stages of the energy value chain.

Summary:

Innogy (formerly RWE) is one of Europe's five leading electricity and gas companies. With over 59,000 employees, they supply over 16M electricity customers and nearly 8M gas customers with energy.

Challenges:

- It was time to replace their on-premises EMC storage arrays
- They needed greater performance
- Improve overall stability of their SAP and e-commerce applications
- Wanted to transition from CapEx to as-a-service model

Solution:

- Replaced EMC with Zadara VPSA Storage Array and Backup to S3

Results:

- Transitioned to new cloud-based, Storage-as-a-Service model
- Stability and scalability dramatically improved
- Improved SAP application performance by 20%

Stability and performance issues drive search for storage replacement.

Innogy was facing performance and stability issues with the current storage infrastructure supporting their SAP HR, Solman and Lancelot e-commerce applications. They turned to their trusted integration partner T1 Solutions to help them identify alternatives to their existing EMC VNX arrays.

Performance was a key requirement during the evaluation cycle. Innogy also sought to improve application stability. The legacy configuration was causing periodic interruptions that impacted users. As the T1 Solutions, s.r.o. cloud engineering team from put it, "Innogy's SAP HR and Solman applications had significant spikes in activity and the EMC arrays could not keep up with the peaks in I/O demand."

Zadara supports AWS, SAP, other mission-critical applications.

After testing a variety of solutions including EMC and SoftNAS, Innogy chose to proceed with the Zadara Virtual Private Storage Array (VPSA) enterprise storage-as-a-service solution, including the Backup to S3 option.

Innogy has deployed their new Zadara VPSA in Dublin, Ireland, connecting to their AWS compute environment. The Zadara VPSA solution now supports their SAP HR, Solman and Lancelot e-commerce applications and has transitioned them from on-premises CapEx to full-cloud OpEx. Since deploying the Zadara solution, Innogy is seeing a 20 percent performance increase in their SAP HR, Solman and Lancelot e-commerce applications.



“Zadara met all of our criteria including performance, stability, scalability and a suite of enterprise-grade features.”

Martin Götz,
Managing Director,
Innogy

Backup to S3.

Innogy also chose to utilize Zadara’s Backup to S3 application which enables VPSA data to be backed up to Amazon S3 compatible storage. This gives Innogy an additional level of data protection and allows them to restore the data to virtually any storage target.

Breaking free of the CapEx cycle.

Innogy was seeking a cloud-based, as-a-service solution that would allow them to break free from the 3-5 year cycle of hardware CapEx refresh and leverage the benefits of a true OpEx, Storage-as-a-Service (STaaS) offering. “Zadara met all of our criteria including performance, stability, scalability and an advanced suite of enterprise-grade features,” said Martin Götz, Managing Director at innogy.

“We were also pleasantly surprised with the agility of the Zadara solution. Once we made the decision to proceed, the solution was installed and operational within 48 hours. We were quite impressed with the flexibility and agility of the architecture,” noted Götz.

The Dublin, Ireland deployment is the first of a multi-phase deployment. The company plans to move six or seven more applications onto the Zadara VPSA platform. The Innogy Holland operation, working closely with T1-Solutions, also plans to test the Zadara Container Services (ZCS) solution. Zadara’s unique ZCS feature provides Docker Container support, enabling applications to run directly on the storage, thereby providing very low-latency I/O and extremely high application performance.



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