



mediaport solutions

mediaport Solutions develops and runs cutting-edge systems for companies in the financial sector. Its customers include TRINITY BANK, SAB, SAB Corporate Finance, FCM Bank, and Artesa.

www.mediaportsolutions.cz

Industry

Financial Services

Headquarters

Zlín, Czech Republic

About partner GAPP System

GAPP System is a highly-qualified, experienced, and trusted supplier of advanced technological solutions, focusing on the design, implementation, and support of complex traditional IT and cloud environments.

www.gapp.cz

VMware footprint

VMware vSphere®
VMware vSAN™

Modern platform helps mediaport prepare systems for new bank

Rising demands on the services provided combined with dynamic development in customer requirements have tasked the mediaport developers and operators of cutting-edge systems for the financial sector with modernising its IT infrastructure. The primary objective was to provide a flexible, modern, and secure platform to deal with rising customer requirements and minimise the administrative demands on IT professionals at mediaport. The hyper-converged infrastructure, built on VMware technology, has succeeded in cutting the IT team's running costs by 15 % and has supported and simplified the process of establishing a new Czech bank.

mediaport changes the way the world uses financial services

mediaport solutions s.r.o. designs, develops, and runs cutting-edge systems for the financial sector. It is primarily based on the quality, user-experience, and security of the systems that it develops and operates itself. This results in the best solutions for its customers, helping them grow. The company works for clients in several European countries, including the financial operators SAB and SAB Corporate Finance, the Maltese FCM Bank, Artesa savings bank, and the new Czech TRINITY BANK, established following the transformation of Moravský Peněžní Ústav.



Preparation for dynamic development among customers

The virtualisation infrastructure built on the traditional architecture of virtualisation servers and external disk systems has reached the end of the line in moral terms and from the perspective of the opportunity for the further expansion of capacity and performance. It was impossible to simply scale it in terms of capacity or performance, and what is more the administration and maintenance of the solution as a whole was complex and ineffective. As a result, mediaport was not sufficiently prepared for the expected dynamic development of its customers.

In 2019, therefore, it decided to fundamentally innovate its infrastructure. “We were seeking a solution that would facilitate the dynamic development of the services we provide, simplify the planning of infrastructure development, and reduce the costs of its maintenance. The objective was to accelerate the supply of new services to our customers through the existing IT team,” explains Zdeněk Prokůpek, Head of IT Infrastructure and Operations at mediaport.

The key expectation was clear - increase the existing performance on server and storage parts for marketing campaigns, reduce “time to delivery”, and increase development flexibility, speed up the implementation of new projects and budgeting, and last but not least, reduce the administration and maintenance required for the solution.

A modern platform for providing services

mediaport contacted its supplier, GAPP System, a VMware partner. Its experts suggested using a hyper-converged infrastructure, after meeting all the specific requirements, which does not use an external storage array for ensuring shared disk space, but internal disks on virtualisation servers. The solution chosen was VMware vSAN®, which complemented the VMware vSphere® server virtualisation that mediaport has been using for over 10 years now.

The customer opted for this solution on account of the high level of reliability and flexibility expected. After all, this concept is ideal when meeting the requirements on flexibility and simple expandability, provided by the option to upgrade purchased nodes or add other nodes. Simply put, performance and capacity can both be scaled. The requirement on disk performance was ensured with a purely SSD disk capacity configuration - hundreds of thousands of IOPS can therefore be achieved.

“The hyper-converged structure built on VMware has met our requirements and enabled us to plan future development with greater ease in line with the rising demands of our customers and the introduction of new services.”

Zdeněk Prokůpek, mediaport Head of IT Infrastructure and Operations

Given that mediaport stresses the ease of use and maintenance of the whole system, experts at GAPP System used a VMware solution in combination with 14th-generation Dell EMC PowerEdge servers and VxRail Manager software management. The principal added value of this model to mediaport is the fact that software updates are prepared and tested on the given hardware itself, thus guaranteeing the subsequent functionality of the solution and the compatibility of all components. What is more, the upgrade is fully automatic and with no downtime, as is the progressive restart of the individual ESX servers.

mediaport has therefore gained a reliable combination of a trusted technological solution and an experienced partner, which will enable it to fully rely on its platform for the operation of applications. “VMware services from the partner GAPP System were carried out at a professional level and helped us significantly reduce the risks associated with migrating operating systems and the transition to the new infrastructure,” confirms Zdeněk Prokůpek.



Surpassing targets

The new solution will allow the mediaport IT team to concentrate fully on its own development and on support for the business. Individual workers can therefore dedicate their time to the activities that have the highest value to the company, costs will be optimised, and effectiveness and agility will increase. This was all confirmed by the two-year operation of the solution as a whole in practice. The required targets were met and several further expansions of the supplied infrastructure were also made with ease - both with the supply of new cluster nodes and with expansion to include additional disk capacity by installing disks in the supplied VxRail nodes.

“The hyper-converged structure built on VMware satisfied our requirements and enabled us to plan future development with greater ease in line with the rising demands of our customers and the introduction of new services,” says Zdeněk Prokůpek.

After two years of experience with a solution built on VMware technology, mediaport considers its greatest benefits to be performance that significantly outstrips current needs, and consequently considerable flexibility and simple scalability. The excellent accessibility and security of the whole solution is also obvious from the perspective of mediaport customers. For the IT team, the new solution has significantly simplified administration in comparison with the previous model with an external storage array, and has considerably cut associated maintenance costs. The process of planning resources for new projects is also simpler, and hardware patch management has been resolved.

The IT team’s running costs were cut by 15 % as a result of simplified administration and maintenance. Moreover, the hyper-converged infrastructure supported and simplified the transformation process from Moravský Peněžní Ústav to the new Czech TRINITY BANK. “In hindsight, I can confirm that the choice of technology and partner was the right one,” concludes Zdeněk Prokůpek.

Onward development

In the future, mediaport is planning to upgrade the solution on vSphere ENT+ in collaboration with the VMware partner GAPP System, coupled with the deployment of a new platform for the development of applications based on VMware Tanzu. At the same time, it plans to apply VMware NSX to increase internal security and simplify the administration and supervision of the whole network.



Modern **#HCI** from @GAPP built on @VMware **#vSAN** and **#VxRAIL** from @DellTechCzech has facilitated the simple development and implementation of new technologies for the operation of the services provided by MEDIAPORT.