



Municipality of Sluis

The Municipality of Sluis choose the NEC Fault Tolerant for its reliability and stability.

The Municipality of Sluis take in the entire western half of the region of Zeelandic Flanders. Here, daily life and administrative responsibilities are extremely varied. It includes the North Sea coast, the Western Scheldt, nature areas, agriculture, shipping and tourism – often crossing borders, and covering many square kilometres, but is home to only a limited number of residents.

The local municipality is therefore a compact organisation which requires no more than five people in the IT department. There's no time for individual research projects or experiments, and there is no time for new functionality that isn't absolutely necessary.

Achieve Continuous Availability with NEC Express5800 Fault Tolerant

- Hardware redundancy in all primary components
- Continuous processing
- Easy to deploy
- Simplified management
- Minimum downtime
- High availability technology
- Rapid Disk Resync
- Active Upgrade
- ExpressCluster X SingleServerSafe

Reseller

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From Novell Groupware to Microsoft Exchange

Objective

In migrating from Novell Groupware to Microsoft Exchange, Sluis is looking for a new server for both application support and data storage. Not a virtual server, but a physical one.

Requirement: maximum uptime and security!

Solution

In the NEC Fault Tolerant Server, they found the best solution. The Fault Tolerant Server provides 99.999% availability and is suitable for MS Exchange in High Availability mode. The only possible alternative would have been 4 or 6 server running in cluster mode.

Besides the savings in hardware costs, they also save on licensing, installation and management of this platform.

“Our employees rely on full availability of applications – both at home and on the road! This requires a robust and reliable server platform.

After a careful comparison, NEC again emerged as our number one choice. The Express5800/ft server will give us years and years of trouble-free operation.”

Marc Cauwels, ICT Coordinator, Municipality of Sluis



BENEFITS

- Robust platform (99.999% uptime)
- Trouble-free operation
- Remote monitoring and support
- Easy deployment
- Simplified Management

No-nonsense automation

"We only update our hardware when it's really necessary." But sometimes you have to. For example, when office applications must also be easily accessible on the go. Which is why, the Municipality of Sluis migrated from its Novell Groupware platform to Microsoft Exchange – not just for the integration of mobile workers, but also because the organisation's important VM applications are supported by Exchange.

The municipality wanted to migrate from Novell Groupware to Exchange as fast and flexible as possible. Therefore they needed to find and implement a new server environment. At first, MS Exchange 2003 was installed on the Fault Tolerant. Recently the migration to MS Exchange 2010 was accomplished.

Components such as e-mail and the central appointments calendar simply had to be included. Many of the over 220 employees in the extended community, including the Mayor and councillors, work partly from home or rely on their Blackberry. The office automation must always be able to rely on a stable, fault-tolerant system. The central server must offer maximum uptime, by means of redundancy and other arrangements.



The Past

The Municipality of Sluis has been using NEC servers, Stogae and PCs for years to its complete satisfaction.

"So it was logical that when we needed to purchase a new central server, we approached NEC first. After a careful comparison, NEC again emerged as the optimum choice. From its wide range of servers, the NEC Fault Tolerant came out top as the best suited to our situation."

The 2003 rather than the 2010 version of MS Exchange was installed directly on the NEC Fault Tolerant.

This has allowed the Municipality of Sluis to test and perfect the migration and implementation of the new environment without worrying about the possible teething problems that can beset very recent software releases.

The Future

"With the NEC Fault Tolerant, we can assume 99.999% operating reliability. We are safe in the knowledge that NEC can monitor the operation of the NEC Fault Tolerant remotely and make adjustments when necessary. However, we opted only for automatic generation of alerts – for example about a decline in performance in data retrieval. We prefer to retain control over the follow-up actions on such messages ourselves. It's good that NEC has gone along with that completely."

Initially, contact between the Municipality of Sluis and NEC Benelux was direct, as in previous years, however Indoss Europe from Arnhem has since become the permanent contact as an authorised reseller. We think this is great. They took care of the upgrade from MS Exchange 2003 to the 2010 version, thanks to which we can now make optimum use of the capabilities of the NEC Fault Tolerant platform. Both the hardware and the organisation behind it inspire us with complete confidence."



NEC Express 5800 Fault Tolerant series

Technology

- The benefits of the NEC Express5800 Fault Tolerant server include: continuous availability (with 99.999% uptime), achievable through the use of standard components and the possibility of "active upgrades".
- The NEC Fault Tolerant servers are based on a dual modular architecture with the GeminiEngine™ chipset, designed to permit "lockstep" processing on both server modules.
- Lockstep makes it possible to execute process threads for both the OS and the applications in both modules simultaneously, thus eliminating any potential disruption should a component fail on either of the two modules.



High-availability due to the GeminiEngine™ redundancy chipset

GeminiEngine™ is a chipset specially engineered for transparent failover and system integrity. In NEC's Fault Tolerant servers, main hardware components are replicated and modularized for full hardware redundancy. The redundancy chipset controls these redundant modules to process the same instructions simultaneously, delivering so-called "lockstep" processing.

When a fault is detected, the faulty module is isolated and is allowed to be removed while the other remains online and continues operation. After replacement, the modules are automatically synchronized and resume normal operation.

Easy to deploy

- A Fault Tolerant server provides a single-server view, free of any special considerations for the redundant architecture.
- Most applications are compatible and do not need special modification or expensive plug-ins
- Fault Tolerant servers allow low-cost and easy management and do not require special administrative resources.

