



## The Business

Originally founded in 1974 to develop computer applications for a banking consortium, finis AG offers a complete banking software solution for private and commercial banks. Based in Lenzburg, Germany and Geneva, Switzerland, the company employs more than 100 specialists engaged in the development of integrated client/server solutions. These solutions are tailored to the specific requirements of medium to large merchant and portfolio management banks. Software development for this highly-specialized environment requires close cooperation with and knowledge of the banking community. Over the years, finis AG has built a close working relationship with many shareholder banks, providing a practical, realistic and targeted approach to software product development. This ensures reliable and appropriate solutions are delivered to finis AG's customer base.

## The Challenge

With a growing number of heterogeneous application servers — all of which have constantly-increasing storage capacities — finis AG decided to investigate possibilities for a centralized SAN-based storage management platform. They wanted to allow for further growth, ease the administrative burden and increase storage resource utilization. finis AG recognized the need for redundancy and high availability in the data network in order to prevent failure in the storage infrastructure resulting in application downtime. Software development at finis AG operates on a very strict timetable, so the effects of downtime were critical and had to be minimized. Availability of and access to online data was regarded as crucial to this requirement. Besides the need to increase application availability, finis AG needed to improve the flexibility of backup regimes for the mission-critical servers running applications such as Oracle and web services.

## The Solution

Through Tristar AG (DataCore Software's storage integration partner in Switzerland), finis AG was offered a solution based on several components and designed to meet their specific requirements. With underlying storage hardware from Compaq, SANsymphony™ was recommended to serve as a centralized administration console for the allocation and management of storage. SANsymphony is used to allocate storage to Windows, Tru64 Unix, Linux and Solaris application servers. With dual SANsymphony storage domain server (SDS) nodes installed, finis AG is able to deploy Network Mirroring to provide data replication and ensure availability for application servers. Compaq servers are used for the SDS nodes, and Compaq fibre channel switches complete the SAN infrastructure. As finis AG IT manager Joerg Andenmatten explains, "Through the implementation of SANsymphony, we introduced a centralized storage management strategy and established a stable foundation for future storage growth."

## finis AG at a Glance

### Business

Development of software solutions for the merchant banking and portfolio management community.

### Main Requirements

Storage consolidation, improved application availability, data redundancy and support for heterogeneous application servers.

### Environment

Compaq storage subsystems and SAN switches, Windows NT and 2000, Tru64, Solaris and Suse Linux application servers running Oracle, file and print, as well as web services.

### DataCore Solution

SANsymphony Network Edition, Network Mirroring with Alternate Path modules.

## Talking with finis AG

### How did you hear about DataCore Software?

Over two years ago we realized at finis we had a large and diverse environment. It became clear we would soon be unable to use our existing storage solutions. We sat down with our solution provider, Tristar AG, and looked for potential solutions including SANsymphony. DataCore Software and the SANsymphony product are synonymous with storage management, so we decided to look at this solution in more detail.

### How many solutions did you consider?

Given the heterogeneous nature of our infrastructure (IBM, Compaq, SUN, HP), we looked at SAN solutions from all the large manufacturers.

### Why did you decide on a DataCore solution?

At the time of our decision, there were not many SAN solutions on the market. There were fewer actually proven in practice. SANsymphony was one of those already deployed in real-world applications and with demonstrable references.

Our solution provider was convinced of the suitability of the SANsymphony solution.

### What is your hardware environment?

Our underlying storage hardware is based on Compaq StorageWorks arrays with HSG80 controllers. These arrays are linked to the SANsymphony SDS nodes through Compaq fibre channel switches via Emulex LP8000 HBAs. Compaq Proliant 8500R servers are employed as SANsymphony SDS nodes.



### For what purpose do you need your SAN? What are you managing with SANsymphony?

SANsymphony provides centralized storage allocation for our Windows 2000, Solaris, Suse Linux and Tru64 application servers. Various applications run on these servers, including Oracle databases, file and print services, as well as web services. In addition, we employ SANsymphony Network Mirroring in order to implement alternate path fail-over for high availability, in case of an infrastructure failure.

### What are the advantages of SANsymphony? What is the most important aspect for finis AG?

SANsymphony has the advantage that it is simple to use. The storage management team became acquainted with it relatively quickly. The SANsymphony solution supports all the main open systems platforms — very important for a heterogeneous network. It is a very stable solution, and we experience no interruptions.

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