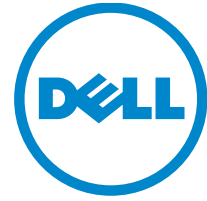


Asset-management firm in Germany implements EqualLogic-based business-continuity solution and ensures compliance with data regulations



- Backup, recovery and archiving
- Data consolidation and management
- Green efficiency
- Management
- **Virtualization**



“The workshops we ran together with Dell gave us an excellent foundation for the project and ensured it ran smoothly. We particularly liked the solution-based approach Dell offered.”

*Martin Mittler, IT Director,
Commerz Real*

Customer profile

Company:	Commerz Real
Industry:	Financial Services
Country:	Germany
Employees:	1,000
Website:	www.commerzreal.com

Business need

Following a merger, [Commerz Real](#) wanted to have access to data across two sites in the event of a disaster and keep downtime to a minimum. It also wanted to consolidate its hardware.

Solution

[Dell consultants](#) deployed [Dell™ PowerEdge™ servers](#) and [Dell EqualLogic storage virtualized](#) on VMware software.

COMMERZ REAL 
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Benefits

- **Commerz Real gains strong foundation for project thanks to Dell workshop**
- **Business reduces energy and cooling costs**
- **Compliance and business continuity assured by data recovery systems**
- **Asset managers gain confidence from Dell support**

Commerz Real is one of the world's largest property asset managers. Consequently, its employees rely on data to make important decisions, manage risk and provide investors with reports. When the company formed as the result of a merger between Commerz Grundbesitz Gesellschaft, Wiesbaden, and CommerzLeasing und Immobilien GmbH in Dusseldorf, ensuring business continuity between its two sites in the event of a disaster was a priority for the firm.

"Since implementing a virtualized Dell infrastructure, we've consolidated our servers, reduced energy costs and space requirements, and simplified maintenance."

*Martin Mittler, IT Director,
Commerz Real*

However, because both organisations had direct attached storage rather than networked storage, they needed a new model to meet regulatory demands. Martin Mittler, IT Director, Commerz Real, says: "We wanted a system that would give employees at both locations access to all necessary data. We also needed each site to provide disaster recovery, should the other have an emergency situation."

Commerz Real finds optimum solution with Dell consultants

Mittler highlighted the company's business needs in a workshop with Dell, before progressing to a [Virtualization Readiness Assessment](#). During the assessment, Dell consultants surveyed the company's infrastructure, considered its objectives and planned a solution to fit its needs. Mittler says: "The workshops we ran together with Dell gave us an excellent foundation for the project and ensured it ran smoothly. We particularly liked the solution-based approach Dell offered." The outcome was a [virtualized](#) infrastructure based on [Dell™ PowerEdge™ R710 servers with Intel® Xeon® processor 5500 series](#), [Dell EqualLogic PS6000X storage area networks \(SANs\)](#) and [VMware® vSphere™ 4](#) software.

Company reduces energy and cooling costs

"Since implementing a virtualized Dell infrastructure, we've consolidated our servers, reduced energy costs and space requirements, and simplified maintenance," says Mittler. In addition, VMware vSphere simplifies Commerz

Real's IT infrastructure and helps system administrators provide a more flexible and reliable service to internal customers.

IT team gains time for strategic projects

Commerz Real's IT team has reduced the time it spends on routine tasks thanks to the tools embedded in its EqualLogic SANs. For example, the team can restore virtual machines quicker.

Technology in practice

Services

Dell Consulting Services

- Workshop, Assessment, Design & Implementation (WADI)
- Virtualization Readiness Assessment

Dell ProSupport Enterprise-Wide Contract (EWC)

- Mission Critical option

Hardware

Dell™ PowerEdge™ R710 servers with Intel® Xeon® processor 5500 series

Dell EqualLogic PS6000X storage area networks

Software

VMware® vSphere™ 4

- Site Recovery Manager



Carsten Boenke, System Administrator, Commerz Real, says: "I can create snapshots of our virtual machines using EqualLogic Auto-Snapshot Manager. This means I can restore a file with just a few clicks of a mouse and I don't need to restore the previous night's backup from tape first." The time Boenke and his colleagues save on these tasks can now be spent on more strategic projects that support the business.

Compliance assured by data recovery systems

Commerz Real's infrastructure helps it comply with stringent data management regulations. In addition, the new disaster recovery strategy forms a crucial part of its business-continuity plans. If the company has an emergency, staff won't be without business-critical information for long because the recovery process can be started using VMware through workflows that Commerz Real has configured in VMware Site Recovery Manager. Boenke says: "We minimise

disruption to the business because we can make data available to staff and customers quickly with VMware's Site Recovery Manager and the EqualLogic SANs."

Asset managers gain confidence from Dell support

With data at the heart of everything it does, the company needs to take a proactive approach to ensure the availability of its systems and data. As a result, it chose a five-year [Dell ProSupport Enterprise-Wide Contract \(EWC\)](#). This includes a Mission Critical option with four-hour on-site response, which minimises downtime and speeds up recovery. Mittler says: "Our in-house expertise is complemented perfectly by experts at Dell. During our long-standing relationship, Dell has given us 100 per cent support and reliability."

For more information go to:
dell.com/casestudies/emea
and dell.de

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Carsten Boenke, System Administrator, Commerz Real



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The Efficient Enterprise runs on Dell: efficiententerprise.com

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