

# REALISING THE POWER OF HYPER-CONVERGENCE

AEW Energie in Switzerland uses hyper-converged infrastructure to cut management time and free up staff to focus on specialised tasks



Engineering, Research & Development

Switzerland

## Business needs

AEW Energie wanted personnel to focus more time on specialised tasks instead of maintaining and managing the existing IT infrastructure.

## Solutions at a glance

- [Software Defined Storage](#)
- [Data Center Virtualization](#)  
– [Dell EMC XC Series Hyper-Converged Appliance](#)
- [Enterprise Support](#)

## Business results

- Enables greater focus on specialised tasks due to fewer IT issues
- Reduces storage costs with software-defined solution
- Enhances data-centre efficiency with scale-out architecture that's quick to deploy
- Ensures redundant environment at head office

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*Thomas Heiz, control systems engineer, AEW Energie*

Ask businesses what they want from their IT environment, and the phrase “ease-of-use” as well as the word “reliability” will no doubt feature in the conversation. It’s why hyper-converged solutions are resonating so much with many companies, and why AEW Energie saw hyper-convergence as the answer to its IT challenges.

The firm, based in the city of Aarau in the north of Switzerland, is involved in electricity, heating, and telecommunications in the canton of Aargau. IT plays a crucial role in AEW Energie’s operations, not least in the systems supporting the electricity grid and underpinning the telecommunications service.

## Complexity drives the need for change

AEW Energie faced challenges with the reliability of a virtualized platform supporting the company’s key IT services. The platform, with its distinct servers, storage and networking, had become time-consuming to manage. AEW Energie also wanted a solution to future-proof its IT for the next five years and deliver a rapid scale-out architecture to maximise data-centre efficiency. Above all, it was keen to find a solution that would allow personnel to focus on developing software to support the company’s technical systems instead of administering IT. Thomas Heiz, control systems engineer at AEW Energie, says: “We wanted to simplify our infrastructure while creating better redundancy. We needed a failover solution to ensure business continuity.”

## Noticeably reduces IT costs with software-defined solution

After looking at different options and analysing initial and long-term costs, AEW Energie chose the Dell EMC XC Hyper-Converged Appliance, running Nutanix™ Prism. AEW enlisted Dell Deployment Services to implement Dell EMC XC Series clusters across three of their sites. According to Heiz, the Dell EMC XC solution has

delivered measurable savings. These savings are the result of a reduction in the amount of hardware the company needs. Gone are the days when compute and storage were separated: today, they are fully integrated within the appliance. This, in turn, makes administration easier.

Now, the IT team uses just a single tool, Nutanix Prism, to control both the virtual machines and storage logical unit numbers (LUNs), and one click is all that it takes to update hypervisors and the Nutanix software. Furthermore, the reduced hardware footprint helps lower power and cooling costs. “Compared with a traditional environment, we’ve cut our data-centre costs by switching to Dell EMC hyper-converged infrastructure and software-defined storage,” says Heiz.

## Cuts management time for greater focus on specialised tasks

The organisation can concentrate on its engineering projects rather than time-consuming management tasks. Heiz highlights how much data-centre management requirements have changed: “We spend much less time on troubleshooting and maintaining our IT systems thanks to our Dell EMC solution. This gives us more time to focus on our specialised engineering tasks.”

## Improves data availability to boost productivity

AEW Energie has also enhanced the reliability of its applications with the Dell EMC XC Series and Intel® solution, and upgrades to the appliance and software aren’t disruptive. Eight months after deployment, the Dell EMC XC solution has been completely reliable. “We haven’t experienced a single failure with our Dell EMC XC hyper-converged infrastructure. We would recommend the Dell EMC/Nutanix appliance to our colleagues in the energy sector,” says Heiz.



## Ensures IT can drive success in the future

AEW Energie can now be confident that it has the IT to support new developments. With energy demands increasing and authorities applying pressure for cleaner energy production, companies such as AEW Energie continue to look for ways to solve those challenges. AEW Energie now has a reliable and efficient IT infrastructure that helps support innovation in the firm's efforts to find the right solutions and meet the needs of multiple stakeholders.

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