

BÄRBROT

The foundation stone for the modern baking factory BärBrot GmbH was laid by master baker Heinrich Bär. As a technically inclined and experienced baker he set himself the goal to use modern processes in a traditional industry to make high quality, affordable bakery products. Quality and its assurance are key cornerstones of the company's philosophy.

THE BUSINESS NEED

All BärBrot GmbH's business processes were totally reliant on a single iSeries software solution. One accident, and the entire theatre of operations would be under threat. A solution that facilitated real-time, reliable back-up of data was urgently required.

After a thorough analysis of the various internal business units' requirements, a project team was put together, consisting of the IT Director Hans-Peter Becker and two external IT consultants. The aim was simple: to examine the High Availability market and find a solution that best suited the company's needs.

THE DECISION

The unanimous choice was the High Availability solution *noMAX from NCT GmbH. One of the key drivers for this decision was the fact that there was no need to change BärBrot's existing software in order to accommodate the *noMAX solution. BärBrot had been a customer of NCT GmbH in Trebur- the company that supplies the *noMAX suite of products in the territory- for some years; their standing as an IBM Premier Business Partner lent great weight to their offering. The company's reputation was based on providing a scalable High Availability service concept that integrates seamlessly around the iSeries infrastructure into the existing system environment. They became the obvious choice.

THE OUTCOME

After the decision to install *noMAX had been taken, preliminary talks between the BärBrot project team and NCT started. Less than a month later the installation of the systems had begun.

As the third party software that BärBrot used for financial accounting, payroll and cost accounting was being regularly updated, it was decided that all the company's libraries would need to be included in the replications. The time taken to execute this intensive operation was less than two hours. This work included the installation of a glass fiber connection to the internal ethernet.



Once *noMAX had been fully installed, Hans-Peter Becker oversaw some rigorous product testing of the solution, to ensure it could meet the company's varied needs.

During the tests, the PTFs were installed on the systems. The company's productive and backup systems had entirely different release versions, something that the internal IT team thought could prove problematic. This was solved within a very short time during the test period, the duration of which was an efficient and concise two weeks. The project team saw this rapid execution of the testing phase as a significant factor in reducing the overall costs of the installation.

Once the successful testing phase was complete and BärBrot was fully satisfied that their expectations had been met the *noMAX High Availability hand over was complete. A further advantage that BärBrot quickly realized was that no training for the BärBrot staff was necessary at all: company personnel were able to manage the solution right after the test period.

"It is crucial for us to have a reliable software partner. Working with NCT was quick and uncomplicated, while remote maintenance allowed fast and easy access and rapid reaction times to any questions we had."

Hans-Peter Becker

IT Director, BärBrot GmbH