

RED HAT VERTRIEB UND ALLGEMEINE ANFRAGEN

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IZN

RED HAT PROVIDES INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CENTER OF LOWER SAXONY WITH HIGH PERFORMANCE AND VENDOR-INDEPENDENCE

FAST FACTS

Industry:	Government
Geography:	Germany
Goal:	Replace obsolete technology.
Platform:	Red Hat Enterprise Linux
Hardware:	HP Integrity Servers (IA-64) and Fujitsu Primergy Servers
Software:	Nivadis; BEA WebLogic
Systems Management:	Red Hat Network Satellite Server
Benefits:	Low-cost solution for high-performance systems. Central, secure IT management. Professional support with open source flexibility.

Informatikzentrum Niedersachsen (IZN) is a government organisation in the German state of Lower Saxony responsible for providing information and communication technology to other government organizations, including the Lower Saxony Police Department. IZN recently led a project to migrate the police department's critical IT systems to Red Hat Enterprise Linux and 64-bit servers from HP, creating a centralized architecture based on open standards. Now more than 11,000 employees at police stations across the state have access to the central application server through an easy-to-use web application.

OBSOLETE TECHNOLOGY CREATES MULTIPLE PROBLEMS

The Lower Saxony Police Department had relied on a Mikado processing system since the early 1990s. In the new millennium, however, the system was becoming obsolete, both with regard to the software itself and also the hardware which was supported. The administrative effort and cost required to support the system was no longer justifiable. An additional concern was that the Mikado system was not compatible with "INPOL-neu," a new tracing and information system used by the central police authorities in Germany.



OPEN SOURCE COMPETENCE CLEARLY WITH RED HAT

From the start, Red Hat Enterprise Linux performed smoothly and almost completely error-free. Even when demands are being made on the system by more than 11,000 users, there are no performance bottlenecks and the entire system is stable all round.

“HP supplies the support for the Nivadis systems,” Breest says, “but open source competence clearly lies with Red Hat and its customer service team. The two together do an excellent job resulting in short reaction times and expert help. In order to set up new systems, for example, we use the kick start functionality via RHN Satellite Server. This worked for X86 systems error-free from the beginning and was extremely efficient. Initially we had some problems doing this with the Itanium systems, but Red Hat helped us find a workaround so that we were also able to make full use of the potential of the RHN Provisioning Module.”

The Red Hat Enterprise Linux installation at IZN has completely fulfilled expectations and will be expanded further in the future. For the purpose of supporting the growing archive system alone, new servers will be set up regularly and integrated into the existing infrastructure.

“Linux has made considerable progress in recent years,” Breest says. “We will certainly use Red Hat Enterprise Linux in the future for new areas of application.”

Target/Requirement	Solution
Central update, management and provisioning capabilities, with the highest-possible security	Red Hat Network Satellite Server with Provisioning Module
Support of high-performance 64-bit hardware	Red Hat Enterprise Linux was the first Linux distribution to support 64-bit hardware.
Independence from individual manufacturers	The Red Hat Enterprise Linux code-base has been accepted to the upstream kernel and the open source community, making it the distribution with the lowest number of custom patches.
Professional support	Red Hat Global Support Services, which is included with any Red Hat Enterprise Linux subscription, provides the highest levels of open source competence.

