On-demand scalability with cost-effective private cloud

fernao somnitec AG

Managed service provider fernao somnitec modernized and simplified its application hosting with a fast and reliable private cloud built on Lenovo ThinkAgile HX Certified Nodes and Nutanix Cloud Platform, boosting flexibility and cost-efficiency.

Who is fernao somnitec?

fernao somnitec AG is a managed service provider based in Switzerland. With over 80 experts, the company develops tailored IT solutions for medium-sized and large companies. Thanks to its experience, fernao somnitec can deliver a broad range of private cloud and hybrid cloud solutions to accommodate customer needs. The company is a Lenovo 360 Partner, a Nutanix Professional Service Provider, and SAP Certified in SAP HANA Operations. fernao somnitec is part of Axians, the ICT Brand of Vinci Energies.

fernao somnitec

2 The challenge

In today's fast-paced business environment, being able to respond rapidly to new opportunities and customer requests is essential to stay ahead of the competition. To build on its strengths of combining flexibility with the highest quality standards and local data governance, fernao somnitec decided to automate time-consuming IT administration tasks with the aim of boosting both IT and business agility.

As its customers—of different sizes and from all kinds of industries—accelerate their digital transformation, fernao somnitec needed to cover an ever-expanding list of systems and applications. And, with more and more business processes relying on increasing amounts of data, the company wanted to ensure that it could scale rapidly and cost-efficiently to meet constantly changing customer expectations.

"We needed the flexibility to design right-sized IT solutions for our customers with fast performance and easy scalability. Our goal was to provide mission-critical workloads of all sizes with a standardized, cost-efficient, and extensible platform."

Jan Fischer

Head of Infrastructure & Cloud Automation, fernao somnitec AG

Building and scaling a private cloud with trusted partners

To deliver robust private cloud services to its customers, fernao somnitec deployed a hyperconverged infrastructure (HCI) solution based on 32 Lenovo ThinkAgile HX Series Certified Nodes and Nutanix Cloud Platform.

The company set up three separate Nutanix clusters targeting different performance requirements. All cluster resources are shared across customers, enabling the company to offer more granular sizing and pricing options compared to dedicated systems.

fernao somnitec worked closely with Lenovo and Nutanix to apply best practices to its software-defined data center architecture and maximize system performance.

Hardware
Lenovo ThinkAgile HX650 V3 2U
Lenovo ThinkAgile HX7531
Lenovo ThinkAgile HX7521
Lenovo ThinkAgile HX3521-G
Lenovo Solutions for SAP S/4HANA

Software
Lenovo XClarity Controller
Nutanix Cloud Platform
SAP HANA
SAP S/4HANA

Offering choice and optimized performance for business applications

For the most critical workloads, such as large databases that support 24/7 business processes with zero downtime, fernao somnitec implemented Lenovo ThinkAgile HX650 V3 2U Certified Nodes, Lenovo ThinkAgile HX7531 Certified Nodes, and Lenovo ThinkAgile HX7521 Certified Nodes. This high-performance HCI cluster is powered by all-flash data storage using ultrafast NVMe drives. The two other Nutanix Cloud Platform clusters rely on Lenovo ThinkAgile HX650 V3 and Lenovo ThinkAgile HX3521-G Certified Nodes to run a wide range of standard software and business applications.

Complementing its private cloud offering, fernao somnitec also runs dedicated Lenovo Solutions for SAP S/4HANA, taking advantage of bare-metal server installations to achieve the highest performance levels. For special workloads, the company operates two additional three-node Lenovo ThinkAgile clusters.

Leveraging Lenovo XClarity Controller, fernao somnitec has integrated systems monitoring data into its central data center monitoring solution.

"With Lenovo solutions, we can cover **all current and future business needs**. From a small and simple virtual machine to very large and complex virtual clusters, the HCI platform from Lenovo and Nutanix gives us all the capabilities and tools to create **cost-efficient, fast, and reliable private cloud solutions** for our customers."

Jan Fischer

Head of Infrastructure & Cloud Automation, fernao somnitec AG

3 The solution

Extending the private cloud with containers and AI

Looking ahead, fernao somnitec is planning to build on the robust and reliable Lenovo ThinkAgile HX Series with Nutanix Cloud Platform solution by embracing containerization, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and Machine Learning (ML).

While the company is still evaluating the final configuration of its new offering, the solution will be implemented on Lenovo servers which are ready to run with NVIDIA GPUs. Taking advantage of simple setup, easy management, and deep integration into the entire solution stack, fernao somnitec is considering deploying the Nutanix Kubernetes Platform for modern containerized workloads. This solution would reduce complexity for the administration team and provide a production-ready lifecycle management for cloud native services.

To tap into the dynamic market of enterprise AI and give its customers the capability to run cutting-edge Large Language Models (LLMs) and Generative AI (Gen AI) apps locally in a private cloud in Switzerland, the company is looking into running Nutanix Enterprise AI on its Lenovo infrastructure.

4 The results

By modernizing, expanding, and upgrading its private cloud with the latest solutions and technologies, fernao somnitec can stay on top of its customers' dynamic requirements. With Lenovo ThinkAgile HX Series, the company simplified its data centers, established more consistent configurations, and automated many operational processes.

The Lenovo-Nutanix HCI solution allows the company to meet today's customer expectations of on-demand scalability and granular system sizing based on actual needs to match public cloud offerings while retaining data sovereignty.

✓ 39 hyperconverged nodes across five clusters

✓ 40% fewer systems needed with latest server models

✓ 70% lower operating costs

4 The results

Achieving higher productivity and cost-efficiency

Thanks to Lenovo ThinkAgile HX Series with Nutanix Cloud Platform, fernao somnitec can deliver cost-efficient private cloud services with a high core density and outstanding performance. With the next-gen Lenovo ThinkAgile HX650 V3 servers, the company reduced the number of physical nodes it needed to install by 40%, further enhancing efficiency.

The HCI platform gives fernao somnitec the flexibility to seamlessly move virtual machines between all three clusters and 32 nodes as needed—enabling the company to respond rapidly to changing customer requirements. Ease of use of the platform and fast provisioning help fernao somnitec to reduce operating costs and increase staff productivity.

Using private cloud platform tools like Nutanix Prism allows for highly efficient IT processes, helping fernao somnitec to cut operating costs by 70% compared to its manual processes running non-standardized dedicated systems. With increased efficiency and standardization, fernao somnitec can now also offer higher level managed services for SAP applications running on Lenovo servers.

"What counts for our customers is **cost-efficiency and reliable performance**. Thanks to Lenovo and Nutanix, we can deliver both. What's more, by leveraging a HCI solution, **management is easier and we gained more flexibility**. We need fewer specialists, enabling us respond faster to change requests and, ultimately, **deliver better customer services**."

Jan Fischer

Head of Infrastructure & Cloud Automation, fernao somnitec AG

Why Lenovo?

fernao somnitec has been working with Lenovo for many years. Time and again, the company has experienced Lenovo's stellar commitment to customer service. No matter whether fernao somnitec needs quick pricing estimates for upcoming customer projects or wants to discuss technical details such as sizing options with experts, the company can always rely on Lenovo.

"Easy and direct communication with Lenovo specialists saves us a lot of time as a partner and helps us to design optimized system configurations quickly," says Jan Fischer, Head of Infrastructure & Cloud Automation at fernao somnitec AG. "We have relied on Lenovo solutions for over ten years and never had a bad experience."

Lenovo

How do you build a cost-efficient and reliable private cloud platform?

fernao somnitec AG deployed a robust hyperconverged solution based on Lenovo ThinkAgile HX Series and Nutanix Cloud Platform.

Explore Lenovo ThinkAgile HX Series

NUTANIX