



Innogy (formerly RWE) deploys Zadara VPSA storage array to improve the performance, stability and scalability of their SAP application



“T1-Solutions, s.r.o. helped us deploy the Zadara VPSA solution to take advantage of the flexibility and agility of cloud-based Storage-as-a-Service, while addressing our fundamental performance, stability and scalability issues.”

Martin Götz, Managing Director, innogy (formerly RWE)

Customer Profile:

Innogy (formerly RWE) is one of Europe's five leading electricity and gas companies. With over 59,000 employees, they supply over 16M electricity customers and nearly 8M gas customers with energy.

Challenge:

- It was time to replace their on-premise EMC storage arrays
- They needed greater performance
- Improve overall stability of their SAP and e-commerce applications
- Wanted to transition from CapEx to as-a-service model

Solution:

- Replaced EMC with Zadara VPSA Storage Array and Backup to S3 (B2S3)

Results:

- Transitioned to new cloud-based, Storage-as-a-Service model
- Stability and scalability dramatically improved
- Improved SAP application performance by 20%

Innogy (formerly RWE) replaces EMC storage with Zadara Enterprise Storage-as-a-Service

innogy is one of Europe's five leading, and Germany's largest, electricity and gas companies. Through their expertise in oil, gas and lignite production; electricity generation from gas, coal, nuclear and renewables; energy trading as well as electricity and gas distribution and sales; they are active at all stages of the energy value chain. Headquartered in Germany, their other main markets are in the Netherlands, United Kingdom, Czech Republic and other markets in Central Eastern Europe.

innogy was facing performance and stability issues with the current storage infrastructure supporting their SAP HR, Solman and Lancelot e-commerce applications.

They turned to their trusted integration partner T1-Solutions to help them identify alternatives to their existing EMC VNX arrays. After testing a variety of solutions including EMC, SoftNAS and Zadara Storage, innogy chose to proceed with the Zadara Storage VPSA, including the Backup to S3 (B2S3) option.

innogy has deployed the new Zadara VPSA enterprise storage-as-a-service solution in Dublin, Ireland, connecting to their AWS compute environment. The VPSA solution now supports their SAP HR, Solman and Lancelot e-commerce applications and has transitioned them from on-premise CapEx to a full cloud OpEx deployment.



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– Martin Götz, Managing Director, innogy (formerly RWE)

Performance was a key requirement during the evaluation cycle. As the T1-Solutions, s.r.o. cloud engineering team from put it, “innogy’s SAP HR and Solman applications had significant spikes in activity and the previous EMC arrays could not keep up with the peaks in I/O demand.” Since deploying the Zadara Storage solution, innogy is seeing a 20% increase in performance on their SAP HR, Solman and Lancelot e-commerce applications.

innogy gave T1-Solutions a secondary goal of improving application stability. The prior configuration was causing periodic interruptions that impacted innogy users. After comprehensive testing, innogy and T1-Solutions, s.r.o. both agreed that the Zadara VPSA solution met the stringent requirements defined by the evaluation team.

innogy also chose to utilize Zadara’s Backup to S3 (B2S3) application which enables VPSA data to be backed-up to Amazon S3 compatible storage. This gives innogy an additional level of data protection and allows them to restore the data to any storage target.

The final goal was to identify a cloud-based, as-a-service solution that would allow innogy to break away from the 3-5 year cycle of hardware CapEx refresh and leverage the benefits of a true OpEx, Storage-as-a-Service (STaaS) offering. After testing a variety of solutions, none of them met the performance, stability and scalability of Zadara Storage.

“Zadara Storage met all of our criteria including performance, stability, scalability and an advanced suite of enterprise-grade features,” said Martin Götz, Managing Director at innogy. “We were also pleasantly surprised with the agility of the Zadara solution. Once we made the decision to proceed, the solution was installed and operational within 48-hours. We were quite impressed with the flexibility and agility of the architecture.”

The Dublin, Ireland deployment is phase 1 of a multi-phase deployment. The plan is to move 6-7 additional applications onto the Zadara VPSA platform. The innogy Holland operation, working closely with T1-Solutions, also plans to test the Zadara Container Services (ZCS) solution. Zadara’s unique ZCS feature provides Docker Container support, enabling applications to run directly on the storage, thereby providing very low-latency I/O and extremely high application performance.

innogy is an excellent example of a worldwide corporation who saw the value in cloud-based, Storage-as-a-Service and decided to move away from the 3-5 year purchase, manage, replace cycle. They resolved their performance, stability and scalability issues while gaining all of the agility and flexibility benefits of cloud-based, Storage-as-a-Service. Best yet, they never need to worry again about replacing their storage because it grows and evolves with them.

“Since deploying Zadara Storage we are seeing a 20% increase in performance.”

Zadara Storage

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