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Reference report: migRaven in case of Mainova AG
The migration of the data and authorizations from Novell- to Windows-Fileserver

Project stage: Q4/ 2013
responsible service provider: aikux.com GmbH

(translated from German)

mainova

The client:

Mainova AG is one of the largest regional energy providers in Germany and supplies electricity, gas, heat and water to around one million people in Hesse and in the surrounding states including numerous corporate clients throughout the country. The Mainova AG went public in 1998 from the merger of public utility Frankfurt am Main and the Maingas AG. The energy- and water utility employs 2,943 employees (effective date 31st December 2012) and achieved a turnover of 1.98 billion Euros in the year 2012.

The task:

The aikux.com GmbH was commissioned in 2013 by the Mainova AG, to support in the migration of data and file server authorizations from Novell to Windows-Fileserver. 10 organizational units were affected by this migration, the data volume to be migrated amounts to approximately 15 Terabyte. After a thorough analysis of the situation and under the condition that the proposed tools and methods would apply, a consultant of aikux.com restricts the time required to 25 man-days.

The solution:

In the initial phase of the migration project, the task was:

- To select the authorization structure existing in Novell,
- To prepare them for further processing in a long-term management tool to be used for NTFS-authorizations and
- To write the data in AD and in the file system.

Not only for the sake of the record, it is noted that as a matter of course, a scan was performed by a tool, which recognizes, secures links in files and thereby future copy operations can be critical. But the real first step was to read the file, which contains the path information in Novell. This was converted into a CSV-file, so that the data can be read for adjusting the authorizations as per the requirements of the Windows-File system.In the next step, migRaven was used: After the CSV-file is read by migRaven, the tool starts to resolve all authorized groups and OUs as per users. It causes a balance between Novell and the AD and checks whether the users are available, checks whether groups, organizational units and users are authorized to several directories and then creates appropriate role groups and adds the appropriate users.

migRaven then generates the authorization groups from the data in the CSV-file, in which all these processes still take place in the database, thus the production system can never be compromised! Inspections and changes are possible at any time. If everything meets the requirements and specifications, the data can be written in AD and in the file system and the authorizations can thereby be assigned.

Normally one must spend an entire day if not more for this work without a tool like migRaven. In the specific case in the Mainova AG, one proceeded department-wise and it was required only slightly more than half an hour on an average! After the allocation of the new NTFS-authorizations, data was copied with robocopy and a final scan, with which the integrity of the file links were checked once again and the breaches were repaired. The release, the switch over to the new file server associated itself with the last data copy that had been processed in the meantime: The migration was completed.

The operations were completed separately for each subsidiary of the company groupMainova AG and required on an average five working days. Through the clever use of DFS during the migration, all data could be migrated block wise from Novell to MS Windows. The work in the company was not interrupted or impaired by the migration process, did not exceed the estimated project period and met the set deadlines without trouble. By using migRaven, the migration time period originally planned or budgeted for 12 months could be limited to six days!

Decision:

Christoph Saar, RZ-operationand print services of Functional Area manager, Mainova AG:

„Few days passed from the first contact to the meeting time in the house of Mainova. The operational requirements regarding minimization of negative effects on the operation by considering the tight time schedule were well understood by the aikux. In the implementation phase, particularly the professional and targeted cooperation of the aikux with the other involved service providers impressed us. In a project, everything cannot be pre-planned and considered 100 percent. Through a seamless interaction between the consultants on site and the development team in the back office, individual adjustments to the product could be implemented very quickly and included in the migration process. The migration project was implemented successfully and in time, with minimum downtime for the users in a high quality. "