

# Stader Daily Newspaper



## Easing into uptime assurance: Stader Daily News depends on Stratus Avance Software

The Stader Daily newspaper ensures high availability for its business-critical communications servers with a Stratus Avance® virtualization solution. The Avance solution was simple to implement and significantly more cost-effective than alternative solutions.

### Business situation

The Stader Daily, which prints over 32,000 copies and is the leading paper in Germany's Stade, Buxtehude, and Lower Elbe region, computerized its layout and print processes. The editorial and production systems are integrated and manage the entire process from producing text to creating plates. External communications are also digital, the most important of these being the exchange of

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**Walter Hoffmann**  
Head of IT  
Stader Daily

### QUICK FACTS

#### SOLUTION PROFILE

- Provides automatic high availability exceeding 99.99% and embedded virtualization for standard x86 servers
- Prevents downtime and data loss: includes automated 24/7 monitoring, fault detection, and management
- Provides 24/7 access to business applications from a single management console
- Support for multiple virtual Microsoft® Windows® and Linux® machines through embedded virtualization
- Risk-free virtualization and server consolidation delivered by a platform-independent uptime assurance solution
- Reduced cost and complexity compared with traditional or virtualized IT environments through a solution that's easy to install, use, and administer

#### PRODUCTS

- Stratus Avance® software

#### SERVICES

- MTS Systemhaus

Uptime. All the time.



announcements and advertisements with customers and editorial research. “About half of our advertisements come in through email,” explains Walter Hoffmann, head of IT at the Stader newspaper.

As a result, the Microsoft Exchange email server has become a business-critical component for the newspaper. Any failure of this system would mean delayed production processes, or if these are already far enough along so that corrections couldn’t be made or orders accepted – even a drop in advertising revenue.

“We have a series of applications that are very important to our business, such as our advertising and editorial systems, software for producing plates, accounting and operations software, etc. but without communication and data exchange, hardly anything can run,” Hoffmann emphasized. “The importance of email and data communications led us to look for a high-availability solution.”

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Head of IT  
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## The Stratus Avance solution

The newspaper investigated several high-availability technologies that could support servers in various locations. They needed to be sure that in case of externally caused failures, such as fire, there would be continued availability.

They took into consideration not only the availability guarantees but also the solution’s costs and disruption to the business. Other solutions were rejected because they would have required investing significantly in new hardware and replacing existing telephone systems. “We would have had to spend a considerable amount of money to replace smoothly functioning systems just to benefit a few components. That seemed to be the wrong approach,” noted Hoffmann.

In the end, the only solution that met all requirements was Stratus Avance high-availability virtualization software. “The Stratus Avance software solution transforms two ordinary x86 servers into a high-availability system,” explains Roland Stoschik, technical lead with MTS Systemhaus in Brunswick, which assisted with the newspaper’s implementation.

The solution creates a single, logical server from two physical servers so that the servers appear as a single system to the user. On these logical servers, one can set up as many virtual servers as needed to run applications and application servers.

Avance software ensures that resources are better utilized and peak loads are distributed. This results in a smaller number of physical servers which in turn leads to less energy consumption and cooling and reduced operating costs. Avance software continuously monitors and synchronizes the physical servers. Should a physical server fail because of some technical problem, the partner system continues running automatically.

As soon as the problem is resolved, Avance software recognizes that both servers are once again available and automatically retrieves and writes all of the changes that occurred during the downtime so that both servers are again in identical states. System administrators don't have to be aware of the failure nor of writing changes – both occur completely automatically through Avance software.

In April 2009, the Stader Daily implemented Stratus Avance software on two HP servers with dual disk drives. The two systems were set up in different parts of the building with a dedicated connection so that both servers could maintain a high level of performance while being continuously synchronized.

The newspaper was able to use the existing telephone infrastructure because Avance software supports standard interfaces.

“Avance software offers us exactly that combination of virtualization and high availability we were looking for,” comments Hoffmann. “Today we have five virtual servers running our critical applications on the system and this infrastructure guarantees their availability. We tested various system-failure scenarios but these did not impact application processing at all.”

Because Avance software can shift processing to the corresponding server in one millisecond, it delivers greater than 99.99% availability which equates to less than one hour per year of downtime.

The implementation and migration of applications to the servers took very little time. This is especially important for small businesses that do not have access to a large IT department. “Avance software is well-known for its problem-free installation,” explained Stoschik. “We had a relatively short timeframe but we completed the entire setup of the five servers in just two evenings.”

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The administration of Avance software has also proven to be simple: Stader Daily's IT staff did not have to go through long training sessions or any certifications – a few hours of instruction were all that was needed.

Stratus Avance software has proven itself in financial terms as well. Although the solution offers the business much more functionality than alternative technology solutions, its overall costs (TCO) were significantly lower: "Including the additional hardware requirements, a classic virtualization solution would have cost about 40% more and a cluster solution would have cost about 50% more," said Hoffmann.

## About Stratus

Stratus delivers uptime assurance for the applications its customers depend on most for their success. With its resilient software and hardware, backed by proactive availability management services, Stratus® products help to save lives and to protect the business and reputations of companies, institutions, and governments the world over.

To learn more about worry-free computing, visit [www.stratus.com](http://www.stratus.com).

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**Roland Stoschik**  
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MTS Systemhaus

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