

More Space, More Efficiency, at the National Lottery

The Dutch National Lottery

More chances, more money! Since 1726, that has been the simple explanation for the popularity of the National Lottery, the oldest and largest lottery of the Netherlands. The total turnover of the Dutch National Lottery, resulting from the joint turnover of the National Lottery, Dayzers and TicketBox, added up to approximately 699 million Euro in 2003. The Dutch National Lottery paid out almost 455 million euro of prize money (64 percent of the turnover), while always guaranteeing the anonymity of the winners.

The IT back office of the Dutch National Lottery is the backbone of the organization. To prevent a system shutdown, the organization has an alternative location.

Overtime work

Server maintenance is always planned very carefully, to make sure that the servers are always available during office hours. Once a month, 8 employees work overtime in the evening to carry out the maintenance tasks.

During this maintenance, the consoles for the various servers were shared in the data center, which made authorization quite difficult. Fred Meijer, System and Network Management Coordinator explains: "The system authorization was not our only challenge. Valuable time was lost because our cooperators had to wait for a console to be available. That's rather annoying, especially when working overtime." Jeroen Groeneweg, System Manager, adds: "Our cooperators often had to be physically present, which increases the risk of a system being down caused by a human factor. Moreover, every time the door opens, the climate control is influenced negatively."

The Dutch National Lottery registered a considerable growth over the last few years, mainly because of a strong growth of internet activities. Fred Meijer: "We needed workplaces for our new colleagues and additional space in the data center." Unfortunately, there was no additional available space in the building.

The winning ticket

The Raritan CommandCenter appeared to be the winning ticket. With this solution it is possible to control 4 KVM-over-IP solutions (DKX216, two IP users and one local user for 16 servers). With the CommandCenter, all IT equipment is accessible, which means that the National Lottery has one access point and one user administration.

Customer Snapshot: Dutch National Lottery

Customer:

"De Nederlandse Staatsloterij" – Dutch National Lottery

Challenge:

Optimize usage of space and management process.

Solution:

The solution offers control over 4 KVM-over-IP solutions (DKX216, two IP users and one local user for 16 servers). The hybrid IT equipment is accessible through the CommandCenter, which means that the National Lottery has one access point and one user administration.

Advantages:

- cost-reducing
- less overtime work
- additional workspaces
- structured and conveniently arranged server space
- increased security
- 25% more space available
- management from own workplace.



"Thanks to Raritan, our overtime hours have decreased significantly, which saves us valuable time"

Square Meters

Our employees can now access the hybrid server environment from their own workplace, so we no longer need a lot of consoles. The old console room is now the working place of 3 employees. Moreover, removing the consoles out of the data center creates additional rack space in the server room. Fred Meijer: "In all, we have up to 25% additional space available."

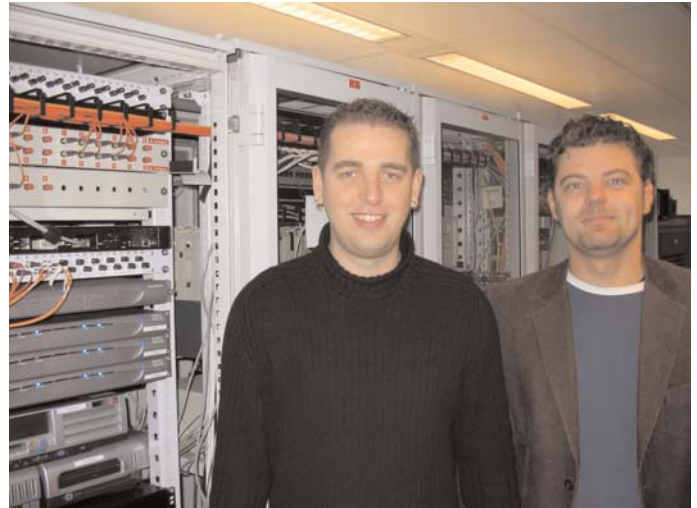
Anytime, Anywhere

The enterprise solution has a positive effect on efficiency. Fred Meijer continues: "We don't have to wait anymore until a console becomes available. Thanks to Raritan, our overtime hours have decreased significantly, which saves us valuable time." The alternative location is also being managed from the workplace, which resulted in a significant decrease of the traveling time between two buildings. To summarize, the enterprise solution means a considerably cost reduction for the Dutch National Lottery.

Security

The Dutch National Lottery also benefits from important security advantages. The IP signal for KVM (Keyboard, Video and Mouse) is encrypted and the actions of our employees are registered on the servers. The stand-alone solution works independently of an Operation System, which means that the security of the management tool does not depend on the security level of an Operating System. Fred Meijer: "There's less need for us to be physically present in the server room. This is not only favorable for climate control, the risk of human errors is also being reduced."

The optimal ratio price/quality eventually was the deciding factor in our decision," said Fred Meijer.



Fred Meijer (System and Network Management Coordinator) and Jeroen Groeneweg (System Manager) of the Dutch National Lottery. Fred Meijer: "In all, we have about 25% additional space available".



Raritan Computer Europe B.V., based in Capelle aan den IJssel in the Netherlands, is a leading provider of solutions for secure IT infrastructure access, control and management of servers and other IT equipment in data centers and branch offices. Raritan's products are used to manage millions of servers in more than 50.000 data centers, computer test labs and other IT sites around the world. Raritan's complete product line includes analogue and digital KVM switches, serial console switches and remote management solutions. This offers IT professionals the most reliable, flexible and secure out-of-band solution. The compatible and scalable products improve the operational productivity of small, medium-sized and large companies. Raritan's Peppercon OEM division develops, manufactures and markets advanced products for remote management based on digital KVM-over-IP solutions and IPMI technology.

Founded in 1985, Raritan Computer, Inc. has experienced 19 consecutive years of profitable growth and technical innovation. Raritan has 31 offices and its products are distributed in 76 countries.

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