DLR

Company
DLR – The German Aerospace

Website
www.dlr.de

Industry
Aerospace

Location
Cologne, Germany

Employees
~8000

Overview
Keeping a disparate VMware vSphere environment stable and resilient was a challenge for DLR. Runecast Analyzer provides risk mitigation for business critical IT systems supporting space missions.

"Thanks to Runecast Analyzer I am saving 2-3 hours a day. I would highly recommend this solution as a 'must have' for any VMware vSphere environment."

Runecast Analyzer Minimizes Operational Risks for Supported Space Missions

Summary

The German Aerospace Center (DLR) is the national aeronautics and space research center of the Federal Republic of Germany. Its extensive research and development work in aeronautics, space, energy, transport, digitalization and security is integrated into national and international cooperative ventures. In addition to its own research, as Germany's space agency, DLR has been given responsibility by the federal government for the planning and implementation of the German space program. DLR is also the umbrella organization for the nation's largest project management agency.

Headquartered in Cologne, DLR has approximately 8000 employees at 20 locations in Germany and offices in Brussels, Paris, Tokyo and Washington D.C. Senior Engineer, Michael Szczuka, works within the German Space Operations Center (GSOC) and is responsible for the VMware virtual infrastructure deployed by GSOC.

Challenge

GSOC has taken a step-by-step approach to adopting VMware vSphere resulting in a large number of different versions deployed. "Our major issue was this high number of different versions in use throughout our infrastructure," explained Mr. Szczuka. "With the added factors that 1) active systems can be hard to shut down once they are in mission-critical use and 2) no central shared storage system is available, it made it cumbersome with planning overhead to free up ESXi hosts for maintenance, leading to a proliferation of many different – and legacy – ESXi versions." Initially, GSOC needed a solution that would enable effective management of their homogenous vSphere environment and minimize risk due to unpatched bugs.

Runecast

2164R - Kemp House, 152 City Road, London EC1V 2NX, UK

innovate@runecast.com
www.runecast.com

DLR

Solution

Mr. Szczuka discovered Runecast Analyzer while attending the 2015 VMworld in Barcelona. Between November and December a Proof of Concept took place, resulting in Runecast Analyzer being deployed across GSOC's environment – consisting of a mix of vSphere 5.5 and 6.5 across ~80 hosts in two vCenters.

Runecast Analyzer is a patented proactive VMware vSphere management solution that installs as an OVA format virtual appliance. It combines the current VMware Knowledge Base articles and internal Runecast expertise to analyze the virtual infrastructure and expose potential issues and best practice violations before they cause major outages.

"Deployment and configuration was easy, with almost no additional work required," stated Mr. Szczuka."

2164R - Kemp House, 152 City Road,
London EC1V 2NX, UK

innovate@runecast.com
www.runecast.com