



WITH SKYPE FOR BUSINESS IN THE PUBLIC CLOUD

» The newly available communication modalities with Skype for Business greatly increased team collaboration within our organization. «

Hartwig Bazzanella, Chairman of the Board, VIRZ Association of Innovative Data Centers.



The VIRZ Association of Innovative Data Centers fosters a constructive dialog between data center operators, architects, industry and research. Their close cooperation with the Technical University in Deggendorf also enables IT students to participate in VIRZ-seminars for data center technology.

Information Technology

Industry

Germany

Country

65

SMBs & Enterprises
Members of VIRZ

5700

Students at
University Deggendorf

1 Week

Project Duration

Software Services

Microsoft Office 365
Microsoft Skype for Business
Online
Microsoft Exchange Online
Microsoft SharePoint Online
Microsoft OneDrive for Business
Online

Initial Situation

VIRZ previously used disparate solutions for communications, such as dedicated email domain and Webex for conferencing and online seminars. A unified platform should simplify internal communications and increase usability for collaboration and conferencing.

Solution

With Office 365 VIRZ has made the move to the public cloud. Next to Skype for Business Online, VIRZ is also using Exchange Online, SharePoint Online and OneDrive for Business for their communication and collaboration solutions.

Improvement

Moving to the public cloud has greatly reduced operational costs. Using Office 365 solutions and hosting video conferences with Skype for Business is not only easier for the end user, it has increased team collaboration, saved time and is less cost intensive.

The members of the VIRZ association are IT-decision makers in various companies that either host data centers or provide data center consulting services to other companies. VIRZ members do not work from one central location and are dispersed across Germany.

Heterogeneous communications environment – VIRZ previously used various solutions for their organization-wide communications. For internal communications, VIRZ used a dedicated email domain and utilized Webex for video conferences and online seminars. In an attempt to modernize their infrastructure, VIRZ aimed to unify their communications and conferences on a single, homogeneous platform. “In order to be able to communicate quickly and efficiently at VIRZ going forward, we have placed our emphasis on flexible communication services that are not tied to a specific location. This is a fundamental requirement in our cloud communications project with UC Point”, according to the VIRZ Chairman, Hartwig Bazzanella.

A focal point for VIRZ are the quarterly meetings of the association. All members that are unable to attend in person should have the opportunity to join via video conferencing.

» We successfully migrated VIRZ to the cloud within a week. The users are excited about their new communication and collaboration features! «

Benedikt Wollenweber, UC Consultant at UC Point.

UC Point Global UCC Service

Individual UCC & Cloud Consulting
Managed O365 Service
Cloud Solutions
Project Support

Benefits

1. Reduced operational cost of email system
2. Decreased time and money thanks to online conferencing
3. Increased collaboration among members of the VIRZ association
4. Enabled future-oriented online learning offerings for University

In addition, any seminars and events hosted by VIRZ should also be made available online in the future. The same goes for seminars that VIRZ offers in collaboration with the Technical University Deggendorf (THD) in Germany for their bachelor program in "Data Center Technology". This even enables students studying abroad to continue to participate in these unique offerings.

Implementing Office 365 – The roll out of Microsoft Office 365 by UC Point has enabled optimized, efficient and feature-rich communication and collaboration for VIRZ. With Office 365, VIRZ is moving to the cloud and with that into the future of communications solutions. Next to Skype for Business Online, VIRZ is also using Exchange Online, SharePoint Online and OneDrive for Business for their communication and collaboration.

In the first step, emails were migrated from their legacy domain to Exchange Online as a central email service for all users. Conferencing, instant messaging, and audio/video calling were enabled by UC Point in Skype for Business Online as a central communications platform. Additional collaboration features were enabled with SharePoint Online and OneDrive for Business.

Increased usability and reduced operational costs – Moving to the cloud has had measurable success for VIRZ, for instance, significantly reducing operational costs for email services.

The ability to host video conferences online with Skype for Business is not only easier for the user, it also saves time and is less cost intensive for the organization. Skype for Business features such as video, instant messaging, and presence have greatly improved communication among the members of VIRZ. Conferences are started with a single click and questions are easily answered with instant messaging. In addition, using SharePoint and OneDrive enables VIRZ members to access and collaborate on documents from anywhere in the world.

The feature-rich platform has also given VIRZ new opportunities to significantly increase their offerings of online seminars and expand their reach to followers interested in VIRZ subject-matter.

In short, implementing Office 365 has not only met, but also exceeded several of the requirements set in the cloud communications project with VIRZ and UC Point.

"The newly available communication modalities with Skype for Business and the ability for VIRZ members to share and edit documents from virtually anywhere have greatly increased team collaboration within our organization. In addition, the new platform has significantly reduced operational costs compared to our legacy environment" says to Hartwig Bazzanella, Chairman of the Board at the VIRZ Association for Innovative Data Centers, in his recap of the project's success.

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