



Daiken NZ teams up with Systemethix to maximise performance & keep costs in check

Goodbye availability problems, hello enterprise-class on-premise storage

The Challenge At Hand

Daiken New Zealand is a renowned manufacturer of premium medium density fibre (MDF) products based in Rangiora, Canterbury. The company's plants operate 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and never had an outage that would stop the factory from running.

Until recently, they were leveraging an aging platform based on HP StoreVirtual, which after eight years in operation, began failing. Together with the slow network backend, this was leading to problems within Daiken's production environment. Daiken was experiencing significant performance issues involving, in particular, their main database becoming unavailable at times.

Their challenge was also around the cost of running their SAP HANA workloads in the public cloud they employed at the time. Using AWS has proven to be quite expensive, and as Daiken was planning to expand the number of their services, they were looking for a more cost-efficient alternative.

The company engaged Systemethix to help them decrease the ongoing costs and increase the performance of their environment while providing deeper insights into their storage systems.

The Initial Approach...



The initial engagement was structured around moving Daiken's HANA platform with workload running in AWS public cloud back on-premise by installing a new IBM Power solution.

The approach presented by Systemethix incorporated IBM Storage System for the HANA database storage and would allow Daiken to not only improve the performance of their workloads but also reduce the costs of running their environment. However, due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, this plan could ultimately not be implemented as intended.

...and the Need to Adapt

Pandemic or not, Daiken still needed to urgently replace their existing infrastructure, so the Systemethix team led by Marcus König had to get back to the board and come up with a new plan to reflect the changed business circumstances.

In record time, Systemethix designed a new, customised solution based on IBM Storage to allow for high availability between two different locations at the client site. In addition, the slow 1GbE iSCSI network backend was replaced with 10GbE iSCSI leading to a massive performance improvement and ensuring that Daiken's database would remain available 100% of the time, 24/7.

In a short time, the company went from a small storage system to an enterprise-grade storage solution. The project was completed during the Covid-19 pandemic and the ensuing lockdown in New Zealand, which led to minor delays, but the Systemethix team was able to adjust quickly to deliver remotely in innovative ways without interruption to any production systems.



Why did Daiken NZ decide to team up with Systemethix?

"We got hold of IBM and started talking to them about their Power server technology. They introduced us to Marcus and Systemethix [...] We have not worked together before, but when we met with Marcus and his team in Christchurch, we discovered we had a lot in common. We also got in touch with some of their other customers in New Zealand and all of them spoke very well about Systemethix."

Paul Schulz, IT Manager, Daiken NZ



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What was your experience working with Systemethix?

“Systemethix are excellent to work with – always happy to answer questions, work together and help us understand the technology better. Marcus is passionate about technology and it really shows when you talk with him about it, and I think it’s evident in the way he works and the results he and his team drive. They are extremely adaptable to changing circumstances and were always coming up with different options – plan A was just the start, they always had plan, B, C, D...”

The Path Ahead

Systemethix remains engaged with Daiken around the HANA deployment and is providing a way for their SAP landscape while helping them drive further savings and business efficiencies. Marcus and his team are currently performing monthly health checks on the implemented storage environment.




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How would you describe Systemethix expertise and approach?

“The Systemethix team has a very wide skillset. It’s difficult to get appropriate technical support for non-Windows environments of which we have a few. They provided expert support not just with regard to storage but also for our non-Windows systems behind our business operations [...] I wouldn’t hesitate to engage Marcus and the team on other projects - their willingness to partner with you and not just stand over and direct how something should be done, to work beside you and help to address the company’s challenges [...] their open, collaborative approach are just some of the things we really appreciated on this complex project.”

Paul Schulz, IT Manager, Daiken NZ



If you could use some help with your organisation’s performance and storage requirements or have questions about how Systemethix could support your business needs, reach out to our team of experts.

[Get in touch](#)