

ProCurve Networking by HP

# Secure and future-proof ProCurve network connects 30,000 servers to the Internet



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**Julien Ardisson**  
CIO/CTO  
Strato Rechenzentrum AG  
Germany

Strato Rechenzentrum AG is a one hundred percent subsidiary of Strato AG, the second largest Web hosting company in Europe. Strato Rechenzentrum AG operates two large-scale computing centers with more than 30,000 servers for Strato.

Headquartered in Berlin, and now a subsidiary of a German ICT company, freenet, Strato hosts more than three and a half million domains. These are primarily for German customers, but it has recently expanded into the UK, France, Spain, Italy and the Netherlands.

In addition to web hosting services, Strato provides its customers with a large number of value-added services. The fastest-growing of all these services is the provision of dedicated and virtual servers at Strato's certified high performance data centres running entirely on renewable energy. This zero carbon service provides Strato customers with a high level of data security, improved backup, increased storage capacity and free technical and customer support.

After experiencing rapid growth, Strato realised it had to quickly formulate a future-proof strategy to manage its server bank and business data in a secure environment using the most energy efficient networking technologies, whilst meeting its environmental policy to reduce its carbon footprint to zero within a cost-effective budget.

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Security was a major determining factor in choosing ProCurve according to Ardisson, who stressed the importance of customers not being able to get access to other customer's server space. "The ProCurve switches provided by far the best network security, enabling us to guarantee our customers' privacy and freedom from interference," he adds.

So far Strato has installed more than 1,400 ProCurve 2524 and 2626 rack switches, each securely connecting 22 servers to the Internet via an existing third-party router, the only network equipment from another vendor still being used by Strato.

"ProCurve's open standards-based architecture and modular design enabled us to integrate our existing third party vendor equipment easily. Not only did this enable us to save on cost by using some of our existing equipment, but it also gives us flexibility to remain at the forefront of technology," adds Ardisson.

Strato has also recently installed ProCurve 2626-PWR switches providing Power over Ethernet (PoE) which offers further value-add benefits to its customers. Thanks to PoE its server customers now have access to remote Keyboard, Video, and Mouse (KVM) connections. "These allow you to remotely manage your dedicated server as though it were under your desk," Ardisson says. "Users connect their laptop or desktop to the KVM over the Internet and see a mouse and keyboard onscreen within a Java client.

## Objective

- Strato Rechenzentrum AG, a one hundred percent subsidiary of Strato AG, the second largest Web hosting company in Europe, wanted to provide a secure, cost-effective network linking more than 30,000 servers to the Internet and to replace a fragmented central infrastructure with a robust integrated solution.

## Approach

- Replace existing equipment with a range of ProCurve switches and HP hardware which deliver the necessary security and power to replace its central fragmented infrastructure.

## IT improvements

- Strato is able to use its own proprietary software with ProCurve equipment for individual monitoring and management of 30,000 server customers.
- The ProCurve solution provides required high levels of security.
- High quality of ProCurve equipment means fewer breakdowns and improved reliability.

## Business benefits

- ProCurve solution guarantees customers' privacy and freedom from interference.
- Optimum price/performance ratio enables Strato to pass on excellent service and savings to its customers.
- PoE allows Strato to offer new keyboard, video, mouse (KVM) service to customers.

In addition to improving services to customers, it was also important that Strato improved its own central infrastructure to manage all the services available to customers, as well as network access control functionality. To do this, Strato has installed 24 ProCurve switches, including 5406zl switches at the core, HP StorageWorks EVA6000 Enterprise Virtual Arrays, StorageWorks EFS Clustered Gateways and the energy efficient HP c-Class BladeSystem with 18 BL456c server blades which use up to 27 per cent less power than rival products from other leading vendors.

“We took the decision to replace the existing bits and pieces from Dell and other vendors with the integrated ProCurve/HP package last November. The equipment was delivered in December and it all went live in January, which was a remarkable performance from the ProCurve/HP engineers working with our staff,” says Ardisson.

Since January 2008 Strato has been 100 per cent CO2 free, saving 15,000 tons of carbon emissions per year. The use of energy efficient ProCurve/HP equipment will help it to further reduce the use of resources.

Looking at the overall experience to date, Ardisson says the equipment has been very reliable. “Whichever vendor you are dealing with there are always going to be challenges to overcome, that’s just a fact of life,” he says. “With ProCurve and HP, we had no issues and introduced a strategy that aimed to eliminate any potential problems, cooperating very closely with our own engineers. This makes our relationship a special one,” concludes Ardisson.



Strato data centre

To find out more about ProCurve Networking please visit: [www.procurve.eu](http://www.procurve.eu)

For information about the ProCurve Network Design Centre, visit: [www.hp.com/go/requestyournetworkdesign](http://www.hp.com/go/requestyournetworkdesign)

### Customer at a Glance

Industry sector: Web hosting  
 Name: STRATO  
 Rechenzentrum AG  
 Headquarters: Berlin, Germany  
 Founded: 1997  
 Telephone: +49 (30) 88615 160  
 URL: [www.strato.com](http://www.strato.com)

### What Makes it Work?

#### Primary applications

- Networking
- Database

#### Primary hardware

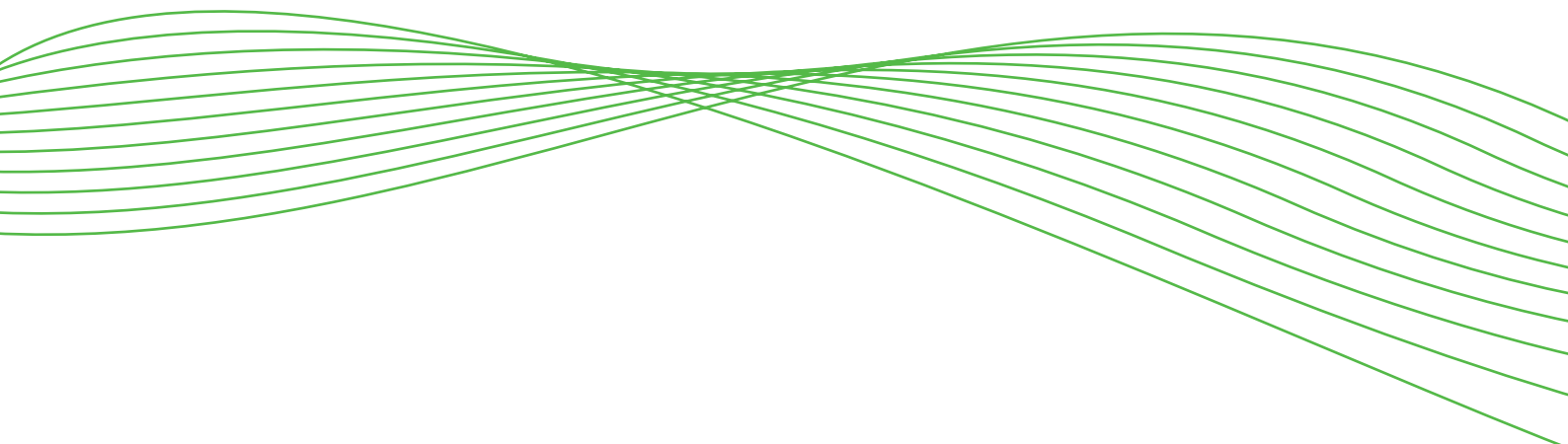
- Infrastructure to provide value-added services
- ProCurve 2848 Switches
- ProCurve 2524 Switches
- ProCurve 2650 Switches
- ProCurve 5406zl-Switches
- HP StorageWorks EVA6000 Enterprise Virtual Arrays
- HP StorageWorks EFS Clustered Gateway
- c-Class BladeSystem with 14 BL456c server blades
- HP ProLiant Servers
- Rack switches
- ProCurve 2626 Switches
- PoE Switches for KVM (Keyboard Video Mouse)
- ProCurve 2626-PWR Switches
- ProCurve 2650-PWR Switches

#### Primary software

- HP StorageWorks Business Copy EVA
- HP StorageWorks Continuous Access EVA

#### Primary services

- 24/7 CarePacks for Infrastructure hardware



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