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ClusterLion Saves the Day at the University of Bonn Computer Center

HRZ HOCHSCHUL RECHENZENTRUM

Location: Bonn, Germany

The challenge

In the event of an outage where data centers are managed with NetApp MetroCluster, a failover of critical storage systems should occur immediately.

In this scenario, an automatic switch to prevent a split-brain problem during the restart isn't guaranteed, even with a synchronous mirror. ClusterLion by ProLion solves this challenge thanks to a complete dependence on infrastructure, ensuring data remains "always on" without any downtime.

The situation

On a Sunday in Spring 2022, there was a technical malfunction of an AC unit in one of the server rooms at the University of Bonn. Within a short timeframe, the temperature rose to a critical level automatically shutting off electricity.

The shutdown also affected the MetroCluster, which could have caused services to go offline until a manual switchover.

The solution

ClusterLion prevented this worst-case scenario from happening. The power outage was immediately detected and within a few seconds, an automatic failover was initialized in the second data center. Therefore, all services remained online without any interruption to operations.

Once the AC unit was repaired, all systems in the data center were rebooted and a manual giveback to the primary data center could be performed. A premature reboot of the affected cluster was also avoided due to ClusterLion temporarily disconnecting the power source.

"Thanks to the completely automatic intervention of the ClusterLion, downtime, a lot of remediation work, data loss, and a lot of working hours for the storage team were prevented," says Alexander Mayer, IT specialist for systems integration at the University of Bonn.

About ProLion

ProLion offers powerful data protection solutions that safeguard critical storage and backup data, on-premises or in the cloud. From ransomware protection that detects threats in real-time to data transparency, our industry-leading solutions ensure your storage system remains secure, compliant, manageable, and accessible around the clock.