

VEKA Proofs SAP on IBM eServer™ iSeries™ Switched Disk

VEKA, one of the leading manufacturers of PVC systems for windows, shutters, and sheets, runs SAP on an IBM eServer™ iSeries.

Recent IBM announcements about the support for SAP on Independent Auxiliary Storage Pools (IASP's) and switched disk caught the eye of VEKA's technical staff as a medium cost HA alternative that could also provide limited D/R capability by allowing separate copies of data to reside in separate buildings up to 250 meters apart.

VEKA and their IBM technical representative contacted the iSeries Technology Center (iTC) in Rochester, Minnesota to discuss the technologies, and how to verify that this technology would work using their own environment. The conclusion was that a Proof of Concept should be performed using equipment and IASP skills based in the IBM benchmark Center in Montpellier France, with the iSeries Technology Center proving additional skills for the test. Four days were allocated to the proof of concept.

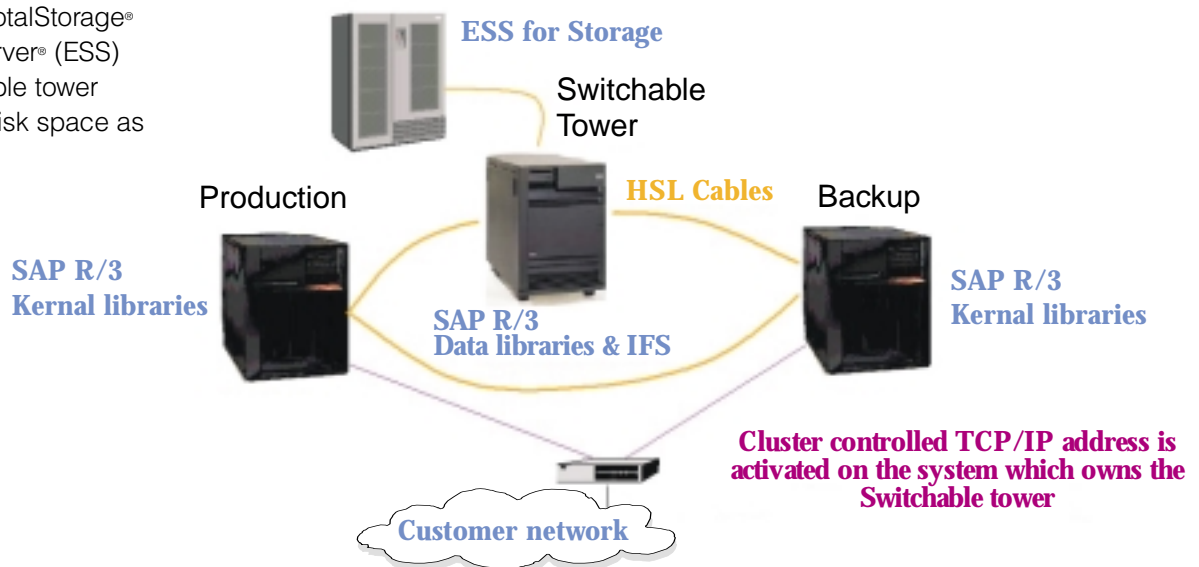
The environment used for the proof of concept was an IBM eServer iSeries 870 as the production SAP server, an IBM eServer iSeries 830 as the backup SAP server and IBM TotalStorage® Enterprise Storage Server® (ESS) attached to a switchable tower providing 500 GB of disk space as the switchable disk.

The proof of concept covered 7 main tasks:

- Restore the full customers system onto the production and backup systems as regular SAP systems. Test that the production system was functional.
- Create an IASP on the ESS disk to provide a switchable environment
- Save the SAP database from the production system, delete it from the production system, and restore it into the IASP environment
- Modify the SAP configuration files and test the environment
- Create an iSeries cluster and make the IASP switchable
- Switch the IASP to the backup system and test SAP
- Perform a number of failovers to prove that the data and SAP system will move to the running system and be available to run production work.

Additionally, there were education sessions on IASP's and Clustering through the 4 days as required.

By the end of the 4 days, VEKA technical personnel had successfully completed all of these tasks. All of issues raised throughout the week, but all were addressed to VEKA's satisfaction through assistance from IBM developers from either Rochester or Walldorf.



The most important aspect of the proof of concept was that both the planned switchover, and the unplanned failover, significantly exceeded the customer's expectations for switchover time. The actual times recorded were:

- The planned switchovers completed in around 6 minutes. The switchover time included starting the SAP application manually on the backup system, but did not include ending active users before switching as there were no active users in this test.
- The unplanned failovers completed in the 10 to 15 minute range.

Christian Otte, team leader of the Server Center of VEKA AG, told us that he was very impressed about the environment in Montpellier. *"Everything and everybody works very professionally. We could reach a switchover time, we never had expected before, even though we didn't utilize the whole possible automatism. I see IASP as an interesting possibility to minimize downtimes for our SAP application. To get more disaster precaution we have the situation, that we will use a second computer center on the premises of VEKA AG in the distance of 120 meter, we will proof, if it fits to an IASP solution in a mirrored environment."*

iSeries Technology Center - Rochester, MN

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