



# CET 21 supports TV operations across Central and Eastern Europe with Lenovo Flex System



## Overview

Czech broadcaster CET 21 was having difficulties ensuring adequate performance of its mission-critical back office workloads on aging Dell hardware. Hosting central business applications for its holding company to keep televisions going across Central and Eastern Europe added to the company's scalability challenges. Addressing these issues, CET 21 replaced its outdated data center architecture with a fully-integrated, high-density Flex System solution from Lenovo, greatly boosting performance and improving scalability.

CET 21, a subsidiary of multinational CME Media Enterprises, is the most popular broadcaster in the Czech Republic. Based in Prague, CET 21 operates several television channels, including TV Nova – the country's biggest commercial station – and offers online video on demand services.

Karel Kreidl, IT Manager at CET 21, says: "We run our holding company's systems in addition to our own back office platforms and applications. It is therefore essential that our data center architecture is flexible and supports high performance in virtual environments. Our existing servers increasingly lacked the scalability needed to cope with these demands."

## Needing to scale for future growth

Karel Kreidl explains: "Our holding company, CME Media Enterprises, operates 33 television channels across Central and Eastern Europe, broadcasting to approximately 50 million people. That means that besides our own applications, we must also provide extremely high service levels for our fully managed hosting services to CME Media Enterprises. This supports staff across offices in Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia, as well as in the Czech Republic."

**"We estimate that performance has improved by 100 percent since replacing our hardware with Flex System."**

—Karel Kreidl,  
IT Manager  
CET 21



Business applications operated by CET 21 include mission-critical ERP software, customer relationship management applications, data warehouses and business intelligence solutions as well as back office productivity tools.

“While there were no performance issues that affected our business users, we knew that our existing set-up was unsustainable,” states Karel Kreidl. “As our servers started reaching full capacity, we became unable to scale out to accommodate growing workloads.”

### Best in class technology

To keep operations running smoothly, CET 21 wanted to upgrade its data center infrastructure with a fully integrated, easily scalable solution.

After evaluating offerings from major vendors such as Cisco, Dell, HP and Huawei, CET 21 chose to deploy a Lenovo Flex System Enterprise Chassis with eight Flex System x240 M5 compute nodes. Equipped with Intel Xeon processors, the Flex System x240 M5 compute nodes offer outstanding performance, while two Flex System Fabric EN4093R 10GB Scalable Switches and two Flex System FC5022 16Gb SAN Scalable Switches ensure ultra-reliable networking and storage connectivity.

“The technical advantages of Flex System compared to competitors’ blade systems were remarkable,” adds Karel Kreidl. “Flex System offered by far and away the highest level of integration and at an attractive price point. Combining blade servers, storage and networking in one converged solution, the Lenovo infrastructure was exactly what we needed to realign our data center architecture with our business requirements.”

He continues: “Flex System offers truly excellent computing performance using the latest Intel Xeon processor technology. In combination with Lenovo’s superior chassis, this was a key deciding factor for us, enabling us to create a streamlined and cost-efficient environment.”

### Flexible and future-proof solution

With Flex System, CET 21 gained vastly improved scalability and performance compared to its previous infrastructure. “In the fast-paced broadcasting industry, we face constantly changing business needs,” says Karel Kreidl. “The flexibility of adding more compute nodes as and when we need to is a fantastic feature of Flex System, enabling us to meet growing demand on our systems.”

He continues: “Although it is difficult to make direct comparisons, we estimate that performance has improved by 100 percent since replacing our hardware with Flex System. The Lenovo solution supports our comprehensive virtualization strategy much more effectively.”

#### Solution components

##### Hardware

- Flex System Enterprise Chassis
- Flex System x240 M5 with Intel Xeon processors
- Flex System Fabric EN4093R 10Gb Scalable Switches
- Flex System FC5022 16Gb SAN Scalable Switches

##### Software

- Linux
- Microsoft Windows Server
- VMware vSphere

“The technical advantages of Flex System compared to competitors’ blade systems were remarkable.”

— Karel Kreidl,  
IT Manager  
CET 21



The highly scalable Lenovo servers ensure that CET 21 can run a wide range of mission-critical workloads more easily than ever before. “Flex System is very easy to manage, meaning we spend less time on administration tasks while providing reliable services to the business,” says Karel Kreidl.

Satisfied with the solution, CET 21 is currently engaging with Lenovo to deploy a second Flex System Enterprise Chassis, which will dramatically expand Lenovo footprint at the company.

Karel Kreidl concludes: “With Lenovo Flex System, we are highly confident of meeting both current and future business needs, enabling staff to work even more efficiently and keeping viewers from across the region entertained.”

### For more information

To learn more about Lenovo Enterprise Systems contact your Lenovo Sales Representative or Lenovo Business Partner, or visit: [lenovo.com/systems](http://lenovo.com/systems)

For more information about CET 21, visit: [www.cetv-net.com](http://www.cetv-net.com)

To share and connect:



“Flex System offers truly excellent computing performance using the latest Intel Xeon processor technology. In combination with Lenovo’s superior chassis design, this was a key deciding factor for us, we created a streamlined and cost-efficient environment.”

—Karel Kreidl,  
IT Manager  
CET 21

# Lenovo™

© 2015 Lenovo. All rights reserved.

**Availability:** Offers, prices, specifications and availability may change without notice. Lenovo is not responsible for photographic or typographic errors. **Warranty:** For a copy of applicable warranties, write to: Warranty Information, 500 Park Offices Drive, RTP, NC, 27709, Attn: Dept. ZPYA/B600. Lenovo makes no representation or warranty regarding third-party products or services. **Trademarks:** Lenovo, the Lenovo logo, and Flex System are trademarks or registered trademarks of Lenovo. Intel, the Intel logo, Xeon and Xeon Inside are registered trademarks of Intel Corporation in the U.S. and other countries. Other company, product, and service names may be trademarks or service marks of others. Visit <http://www.lenovo.com/lenovo/us/en/safecomp.html> periodically for the latest information on safe and effective computing.

