



AXEZ ensures maximum availability and performance of Slim4 worldwide

Guaranteeing 24/7 availability, high performance, and low latency. These are the main challenge Software-as-a-Service providers around the world are dealing with today, and the same goes for Slimstock, European market leader in inventory optimisation. Their Slim4 application has been operational in a SaaS variant since April 2018. Meanwhile, the number of clients – in the Netherlands and abroad – has grown significantly. In collaboration with HPE Platinum Partner AXEZ, Slimstock continuously aims to optimise the performance and availability of Slim4 as it fully supports the company's growth.


Slimstock helps companies around the world to manage their inventory and adapt faster to dynamic conditions, increasing their options to achieve their supply chain objectives. Slim4 is a unique software package specially designed for forecasting, demand planning, and inventory optimisation. It integrates seamlessly with any ERP system, from which it reads sales and stock data and translates it into customised pointers. Over two years ago, AXEZ used its own GuardData® cloud platform to set up a private and multi-tenant cloud environment in which each Slimstock client has a dedicated Slim4 environment.

Performance and continuity

Two years ago, the Slim4 client experience was still the driving force for making the decision to fully optimise the IT infrastructure. Today, we work continuously to improve performance and continuity. "Our clients' purchase order recommendations need to be available early in the morning. Not just in the Netherlands, but also in the United States, the Middle East, and Australia. Because we work in different time zones, our forecasts and pointers on the cloud platform must be available 24/7", says Daan Majoor, CTO of Slimstock.

“Our clients depend on Slim4 for their purchasing pointers. Because we work globally, and different regions observe different weekend days, the platform we offer must be available 24/7.”

The way Slimstock's software is purchased has changed considerably in recent years. For example, the number of clients who purchase the application as a service has increased significantly. Slimstock currently sells application-as-a-service licenses in about twelve countries, including the United States, Brazil and Dubai.



In the United States, Slim4 is primarily delivered as a SaaS service, whereas Dutch companies maintain a much broader mix of on-premise installation, self-hosted software, or they purchase the software as a service.

AXEZ consultants and architects continuously optimise the performance and connections to the Slim4 application. After all, clients get used to the application's great performance. "The Slim4 software has certain critical calculation hours during which a lot of data is processed, especially in the morning when the initial order recommendations must be determined. They want to view and instantly process the pointers and predictions for their inventory. We must ensure that the pointers are ready just in time", says van Dop.

“*Slimstock doesn't need to worry about safeguarding data security from our GuardData® platform.*”

René van Dop, Director of AXEZ Slimstock doesn't

Security-first approach

All this doesn't mean that optimising client experience has taken a backseat. "Two years ago, the Slim4 workflow included more actions to take. The user experience has greatly improved and clients find it easier to use the application", says Majoor. Thanks to the AXEZ GuardData® cloud platform, Slimstock can now easily offer Slim4 as a fully web-enabled application so clients who prefer not to use a VPN can also use Slim4. "Of course we will always maintain a security-first approach. This also means that Slimstock doesn't need to worry about safeguarding data security from our GuardData® platform", says Van Dop. "The standard data security is safeguarded for all our clients. We also offer additional features to clients who require this."

Responding to changing demand models

The corona pandemic brought about many changes, including for the inventory management market. Demand patterns have changed dramatically. "People are buying more online. Where you used to see stable seasonal patterns, you now see that the demand for some products skyrockets while other products are hardly selling anymore. With Slim4, clients can quickly see which of their products are high in demand and the software uses this data to instantly make forecasts to replenish stocks accordingly. But if demand suddenly drops, Slim4 users can also cancel orders more quickly", says Majoor

Faster response and intervention

With AXEZ's HPE-based GuardData® cloud platform, Slimstock can guarantee its clients high availability and performance. And the service of AXEZ even takes things to the next level. "Together with AXEZ, we can respond very quickly. If a new client wants to join the platform, it only takes one or two days to get the entire environment live with exactly the right resources required for that specific client", says Majoor. "Processes are speeded up significantly compared to us organising everything ourselves", he adds. With the pay-per-use model, clients only pay for what they effectively use. AXEZ allocates exactly those resources the client needs.

"The GuardData® dashboard enables both AXEZ and SlimStock to continuously monitor how the Slim4 software is performing at the client's location", says van Dop. Previously, in an on-premise environment, clients often had to tackle performance challenges caused by outdated hardware, for example. The only solution the client had was investing in new hardware. Now, AXEZ and Slimstock can easily see where improvements can be made so, after consultation with the client, they can be implemented faster. This ensures that the IT environment offers the optimum result, leading to a better user experience and faster implementation of the software.

“Thanks to AXEZ, it takes only one or two days until the environment is live for customers.”

Customised pointers

"The great thing about the Slimstock platform is that it continues to evolve. We are constantly working on new features for which we also apply machine learning. AXEZ is always available to advise us", says Majoor. "Their IT experts know the platform like the back of their hands and continue to respond perfectly to our needs and those of our clients", concludes Majoor.



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