



BEACON PROJECT ON A LEGACY PLATFORM

Challenge

Completely modernize an existing system according to service-oriented architecture (SOA) principles in order to quickly implement new legal requirements.

Solution

Build a workflow-supported e-government solution with integrated Office and DMS functionality while reusing existing mainframe functions.

Benefits

- Increased productivity
- Applications can be processed more quickly and cost-effectively
- Return on investment in less than one year
- Previous investments are protected
- Greater user friendliness for system administrators
- Transparency into the application process

Saarland

Ministerium für Justiz,
Gesundheit und Soziales

Saarland's State Office for Social Affairs, Health, and Consumer Protection is implementing software following the latest SOA design principles for the German Federal Child-Raising Allowance Act, effective January 1, 2007. Within the framework of Saarland's e-government strategy, the solution developed with ZDV Saar and Software AG is considered a beacon project that is expected to provide a great deal of potential benefit.

Get There Faster.™

“We expect to see an ROI on our Child-Raising Allowance solution within a year due to significantly improved processes and reuse of existing IT components.”

Rainer Meiser | EDP Project Manager | Saarland State Office for Social Affairs, Health, and Consumer Protection

Modernization project with rapid return on investment

The Saarland State Office for Social Affairs, Health, and Consumer Protection, in connection with the German Federal Child-Raising Allowance Act in effect since the beginning of 2007, demonstrates the potential offered by well thought out modernization of existing systems. If you look over the shoulder of the 14 employees who process Child-Raising Allowance applications, you'll see a state-of-the-art work environment.

All submitted documents, as well as any accompanying documents, are scanned and then processed supported by workflows. Microsoft Word and Excel are integrated seamlessly into the graphical user interface, and they can be accessed directly from the process. An integrated document management system (DMS) provides central archiving and the quick retrieval of documents. No trace of the formerly paper-based reams of files can be found—nevertheless mainframe functions dating to the late 1980s are being used in the background.

An urgent need to modernize

The project started at the end of 2005 and was initially targeted at modernizing the previous solution for processing the Child-Raising Allowance, which had been in operation since 1987. Although that solution has been replaced, it must operate through the end of 2008 for all children born before January 1, 2007. Technically, the mainframe solution fulfilled requirements, but due to inflexible, outdated user interfaces, it has a steep learning curve and complicates job training for new employees. Furthermore, the lack of integration with Office meant that it was by no means state of the art and approximately 6,500 new applications annually, containing 250,000 individual documents, made it increasingly difficult

to find space for archiving and searching for individual files took a great deal of time.

The need for a more modern solution was obvious, but the agency wanted to avoid the costly and risky redevelopment of the entire process, if possible. In this respect Software AG stood out as a project partner for a number of reasons. The company is the provider of the basic technologies used for the existing procedure—the Adabas data management solution and the Natural development environment. In addition, it has a number of successful modernization projects under its belt. The modernization followed SOA principles, the goal of which is the economical and flexible use of existing components.

Solid foundation for the Child-Raising Allowance solution

The project team was able to convert the Child-Raising Allowance system to a three-stage architecture. The existing Adabas and Natural functions on the mainframe have been preserved and are still used via Web services. A smart client was developed for the workstation PCs that are linked via the intranet. This client is based on the .Net Framework and C# or VB.Net and handles all user control as well as the integration of the Office products and the essential DMS functionality. The application server acts as a communication layer, communicating with the host via Software AG's webMethods EntireX integration solution and via TCP/IP and SOAP/XML calls with the smart clients.

Put into operation in September 2006, this new application enabled delivery of the Child-Raising Allowance solution on time—despite considerable time pressure. The German National Parliament didn't approve the bill until September 29, 2006; then the Federal Council of Germany followed suit at the beginning of November, and the final details regarding the basis for calculation were

discussed into December. In addition to the necessary customization of the application logic, including the much more complicated calculation process, the solution was enhanced during this time with complete DMS functionality, including the option of scanning all incoming documents. A corresponding project to make the Child-Raising Allowance application available via an Internet portal has already been planned with Software AG.

KEY COMPONENTS

webMethods EntireX serves to integrate existing systems into a service-oriented architecture.

The mainframe applications created with the **Adabas** data management system and the **Natural** development environment distinguish themselves with high performance and stability.

The expertise gained by **Software AG consultants** through various modernization projects.

ABOUT SOFTWARE AG

Software AG is the world's largest independent provider of Business Infrastructure Software. Our 4,000 global customers achieve business results faster by modernizing, automating and improving their IT systems and processes to rapidly build measurable business value and meet changing business demands. Using our solutions, organizations are able to liberate and govern their data, systems, applications, processes and services - achieving new levels of business automation and transparency.

Our industry-leading product portfolio includes best-in-class solutions for managing data, developing and modernizing applications, enabling service-oriented architecture, and improving business processes. By combining this proven technology with industry expertise and best practices, our customers improve and differentiate their businesses - faster.

Software AG - Get There Faster

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