



APPLICATION OPTIMIZATION SAVES GLOBAL FINANCIAL LEADER MILLIONS

Challenge

Santander Consumer Bank GmbH, Austria needed to reduce costs, manage increased demands and improve processing throughput times on its mainframe-based leasing application. To realize these objectives, they decided to port the application to a new local Linux platform.

Solution

Working in cooperation with Software AG Austria, Santander Austria successfully migrated their mainframe-based leasing application to a new local Linux platform. Essential application components in COBOL and other programming languages were re-developed using Software AG technology, including Adabas and Natural. The updated leasing application provides Santander Austria with greater business flexibility and an increased competitive advantage.

Benefits

- No disruption to ongoing operations
- Increased efficiency and competitive advantage
- Cost savings of over one million Euros annually
- Batch processing throughput times were reduced from 10 hours to less than one



With 260,000 customers, Santander Consumer Bank GmbH, Austria is a high-profile provider of financial services in the retail banking sector. The company's outstanding strength lies in the sales financing of motor vehicles and consumer goods. Santander Austria is one of the largest manufacturer-independent financing companies for cars and motorcycles in Austria and number one when it comes to financing consumer goods. Beyond that Santander Austria offers cash loans and cash cards in its nationwide branch network as well as on the Internet – supplemented with special products of Austria's strong business partners, if required.

Get There Faster.™

“We wanted to work with Software AG on this project, because continuing to operate the proprietary leasing software in a mainframe-based environment was very expensive for us.”

Georg Gfrerer | CIO | Santander Consumer Bank GmbH, Austria

Partnering for Success

Santander Consumer Bank GmbH, Austria, formerly GE Money Bank in Austria, needed to reduce costs and manage increased demands on its mainframe leasing application. The bank decided in 2004 that, in order to realize these objectives, they would need to port the application to a new local Linux platform.

To modify the various systems and move the leasing application to the local Linux platform, Santander Austria chose to partner with Software AG. This was a natural choice for Santander Austria because Software AG had been handling all maintenance and development for their mainframe-based leasing application for the prior three years. In addition, Software AG brought extensive experience in process optimization and application porting to the project.

Cutting Costs and Streamlining Throughput

Software AG’s mission was to port the components and underlying applications from the old platform to the new—without disrupting operations in any way. Achieving greater cost savings was, in particular, the bank’s main focus. As Georg Gfrerer, CIO of Santander Consumer Bank GmbH, Austria explains, “We wanted to work with Software AG on this project, because continuing to operate the proprietary leasing software in a mainframe-based environment was very expensive for us.”

Furthermore, the company needed to minimize throughput times for their batch processing. Increased business volume and outdated processes meant that the processing window for Santander Austria batch operations—which handled tasks for dunning, repayment, contract activation and ongoing reporting—had reached its limits.

Porting to Linux and Optimizing Processes

Following intensive preparation, the project began in May 2004. One of the first project tasks was to clean up the “graveyard” of programs and applications collected over the years and reduce the more than 100 reporting lists to a minimum. At the same time, essential application components in COBOL and other programming languages were re-developed using Adabas and Natural, making it possible to port the application easily to Linux.

The project required about 500 person days in total, and went into production in April 2006. Georg Gfrerer described what happened, “The conversion came off without a hitch. On Friday the old mainframe system was shut off and on the following Monday everything was running on the new platform, without any significant problems.”

For users the interface remained almost identical; for those employees who work directly on the mainframe, there is just a minor change in how they access the application. The fact that Santander Austria now centrally operates this application from its data center makes no difference, except for reduced costs and increased flexibility. There were other significant project achievements as well; reporting lists are now electronic as PDFs and can be printed when necessary, and the batch processing throughput times were reduced from ten hours to less than one hour.

Saving over One Million Euros per Year

Working in cooperation with Software AG has continued to pay off for Santander Austria every year. Georg Gfrerer sums it up, “By changing our platform, we save more than a million Euros annually.” In addition, the updated leasing application gives them greater business flexibility and increases their competitive advantage.

KEY COMPONENTS

Adabas and Natural were used to redevelop Austria’s leasing application components, making it possible to port the application to Linux.

Software AG’s Global Consulting Services partnered with Santander Austria to move their leasing application from a mainframe-based environment to a new local Linux platform.

Take the next step to get there – faster.

ABOUT SOFTWARE AG

Software AG is the global leader in Business Process Excellence. Our 40 years of innovation include the invention of the first high-performance transactional database, Adabas; the first business process analysis platform, ARIS; and the first B2B server and SOA-based integration platform, webMethods.

We offer our customers end-to-end Business Process Management (BPM) solutions delivering low Total-Cost-of-Ownership and high ease of use. Our industry-leading brands, ARIS, webMethods, Adabas, Natural, CentraSite and IDS Scheer Consulting, represent a unique portfolio encompassing: process strategy, design, integration and control; SOA-based integration and data management; process-driven SAP implementation; and strategic process consulting and services.

ABOUT IDS SCHEER

IDS Scheer is part of the Software AG Group and a leading provider of BPM software, solutions and services for corporations and public organizations worldwide. With the ARIS Platform for Process Excellence, the company offers an integrated, comprehensive solution portfolio for the strategy, design, implementation and controlling of business processes; allowing companies to continuously improve their overall business performance. Utilizing the ARIS Value Engineering (AVE) approach, IDS Scheer consultants bridge the gap between corporate strategy, business processes, IT solutions and process controlling.

Software AG – Get There Faster

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