



## POISE FOR GROWTH BY STANDARDIZING ON SOFTWARE AG

### Challenge

Like many large financial institutions, DekaBank has come to rely on a number of packaged applications from outside vendors to manage its operations. When it purchased a new front-office system, DekaBank considered connecting it to each of its existing applications by building one-to-one connectors, but decided taking that approach would not be cost-effective. The bank also wanted to lay a foundation that would accommodate future application integration plans.

### Solution

DekaBank selected the Software AG webMethods Enterprise Service Bus (ESB) to automate the reconciliation of data between its new front-office system and the financial accounting application. DekaBank also planned to extend its webMethods ESB usage to achieve a central integration architecture.

### Benefits

- Lower cost of application-to-application integration
- Ease of maintenance
- Platform for future growth

## DekaBank

DekaBank is one of Europe's largest financial services organizations, managing more than \$125 billion in assets across the group. Headquartered in Frankfurt and Berlin, Germany, DekaBank employs nearly 3,200 and operates subsidiaries in Ireland, Luxembourg and Switzerland. DekaBank has grown rapidly in recent years, and its major clients include banks, investment houses, insurance companies and European administrative bodies of all levels.

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**“[Software AG] was the only vendor that showed us an implemented system that complemented our own vision for the future. That was very important to us.”**

Martin Wroblinski | Integration Project Coordinator | DekaBank

## The challenge

Like many large financial institutions, DekaBank has come to rely on a number of packaged applications from outside vendors to manage its operations. Those applications need to exchange data which, in the past, was accomplished primarily by building custom connections between systems. In early 2001, DekaBank made the decision to implement Decalog, a new front-office system from SunGard that connects into the majority of its existing financial applications. The Decalog system provides decision support, compliance, performance measurement, and assists trading departments in streamlining workflow.

DekaBank considered connecting the new Decalog system to each of its existing applications by building one-to-one connectors, but decided taking that approach would not be cost-effective. Martin Wroblinski, the integration project coordinator, says the bank also wanted to lay a foundation that would accommodate future application integration plans. “We wanted to get away from the old system of building one-to-one connections,” he says, “because not only do we have to transfer data between systems, we also have to control complex business processes between the applications.”

## The solution

DekaBank began searching for an enterprise application integration partner that could meet its immediate and future needs. This search included an extensive evaluation of multiple vendors. The broad list of vendors was eventually narrowed to just three, based on product features. The three finalists were required to participate in a proof of concept that involved mapping a fund order and

notification process. Following the evaluation, the decision was made to standardize on the Software AG webMethods ESB. Wroblinski says scalability and ease-of-use were key factors in Software AG’s favor, but other factors also came into play.

“[Software AG] had the best commitment in terms of their support and willingness to partner with us,” says Wroblinski. “[Software AG] was the only vendor that showed us an implemented system that complemented our own vision for the future. That was very important to us.”

Once the decision was made to proceed with Software AG, DekaBank conducted an internal pilot. The pilot was used primarily to develop expertise in implementing the platform and to ensure that the technology was compatible with the company’s overall IT architecture. DekaBank began work on several integration projects, including a system that is now in production, to facilitate the extraction of analytical data for further analysis on a reusable basis. A project to automate the reconciliation of data between the Decalog front-office system and the SER V3 financial accounting application is set to begin soon.

## Results and future development

Based on its early results, DekaBank now plans to extend its webMethods ESB usage to achieve a central integration architecture. “The strategy at DekaBank is not to attempt a big bang approach to integration, but to instead connect applications using the webMethods integration platform as new applications are introduced,” says Wroblinski. Additionally, DekaBank has decided to expand the use of Software AG beyond the core financial systems into other departments, first being risk management.

“The long-term plan is to be able to have a logical layer of business services made available using the webMethods ESB,” says Wroblinski. “That way, if a person needs to gain access to information in any of our systems - such as the positions in a portfolio, or the price of a fund - it can be made available as a service using the [Software AG] platform, regardless of where it resides in the system.”

## KEY COMPONENTS

### webMethods Enterprise Service Bus

The webMethods ESB provides the foundation for your SOA with enterprise-class features. It uniquely combines proven application integration capabilities, high-speed messaging, support for B2B, legacy applications and event-driven technologies to create the most complete integration infrastructure available.

## ABOUT SOFTWARE AG

Software AG is the world’s largest independent provider of Business Infrastructure Software. Our 4,000 global customers achieve measurable business results by modernizing and automating their IT systems and rapidly building new systems and processes to meet growing business demands.

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

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