



ZIIP AHOY: FULL SPEED AHEAD FOR DATAPORT'S MAINFRAMES



Customer Profile

Dataport is responsible for the telephone and data communication, administrative applications and data security as well as tax administration for several states and municipalities in Germany, making it a pioneer in providing IT and communication services for government agencies. The service provider has 2,500 employees and manages approximately 90,000 digital workspaces in six states as well as 70 communities with 5,000 servers and four mainframes with approximately 17,000 TB of data. The company's revenues exceeded €507 million in 2016.

New Challenges

- Digitalizing public administration
- Ongoing high costs with throttled processors
- Increased utilization of mainframe capacity
- Growing demand due to new customers

Software AG Solutions

- Database Management System powered by Adabas
- Application Development powered by Natural
- Application Modernization powered by Adabas & Natural and EntireX

Key Benefits

- Capacity gains and improved performance
- Load on main processors reduced by up to 99 percent (Natural components)
- Significantly faster batch runs
- Purchase of new machines and necessary upgrades could be postponed

Setting course for new customers thanks to mainframe optimization

Software AG has been implementing Adabas & Natural since 1994. Dieter Urbach, Director of Operations Services and Projects at Dataport, learned about Software AG's zIIP enablement options through the intensive collaboration in the Adabas & Natural working groups and was quickly won over. "When we were facing the decision of accepting Saxony-Anhalt as a new

customer, the IBM® zIIP™ (z Systems® Integrated Information Processor) was just the right thing," explained Urbach. "Shifting the workload to the zIIP processors would free up the main processors, which could then be used for external clients without upgrading equipment and obtaining IBM licenses: Mainframe capacity problem solved, thanks to zIIP."

"Our mainframes are a strategic constant. As a data center, we depend on our customers and their application providers, which means we have to be flexible. At the same time, we're sticking with our mainframe technology and planning a new workload for it including applications such as Artificial Intelligence (AI)/Watson™, big data and the Internet of Things (IoT)."

— **Guido Schmidt** | Director, Mainframe Operations at Dataport

Fast CPU times are convincing

zIIP enablement can actually significantly improve mainframe capacity by offloading the Natural-supported batch and online workload from the GPP to an IBM zIIP. Dataport determined these findings in an initial test phase for the main workload, KIDICAP. KIDICAP is the payroll system that is used by Bremen and slated for use in Saxony-Anhalt and Brandenburg.

The initial results astonished Dataport employees: "After the zIIP offload, CPU times for a payroll run dropped in some instances from 90 CPU minutes to just 20 minutes," said Christina Möllenberg, a system technician with Dataport. "Our decision to deploy the zIIP Enabler for nearly all batch areas was absolutely worth it." Saxony-Anhalt and Brandenburg can come on in.

No sooner said than done: Dataport has been running the normal Natural batch processes on the zIIP since April 2014. Add to that the online processes that run as a batch such as the KIDICAP payroll system for several states, including new customers Saxony-Anhalt and Brandenburg. Other examples include PERMIS, the state financial assistance system that Dataport operates for Schleswig-Holstein, Hamburg and Bremen, and PROSA, the welfare system used by Hamburg.

The assessments speak for themselves. The load on the main processor has decreased massively and for all applications as a whole. Reduced batch runtimes are an additional benefit. All in all, it's a result that Dataport and Software AG can be proud of.

zIIP enablement has fully convinced Dataport and helped the company postpone the purchase of new machines. Dataport was able to serve its new customers with it, and the installation went smoothly, thanks in no small part to its close contact with Software AG.

The deployment proceeded without technical problems overall, and the collaboration with Software AG was excellent, as was the general tenor among Dataport employees. "And our customers are satisfied, because not only do their processes run faster, they run smoother, too," according to Dieter Urbach, Director of Operations Services and Projects. That's certainly a positive effect considering Dataport's high customer satisfaction goals.

Setting sail for new harbors—with mainframes

While other companies are in the process of winding down their mainframe operations, Dataport is sticking with its stable and secure mainframes. The clear gain in free GPP capacities due to the zIIP Enabler begs the question of what possibilities this solution could yield. The interesting thing about that: Dataport has throttled main processors available but uses unthrottled auxiliary processors. This could certainly be a starting point for continued mainframe development—by introducing Adabas for zIIP, for example—which is currently still in the test phase. And of course, with innovative applications that support the digital transformation of the company and its customers.

As part of their collaboration, Dataport and Software AG plan to drive the mainframe modernization and motivate experts at other companies to explore the idea. In comparison to a replacement, mainframes are usually the much better choice with regard to performance, cost and risk. Although the traditional workload on the mainframe will decline in the future at Dataport, that leaves the way open for using AI and IoT technologies. So the mainframe is keeping up with the demands of digitalization—just as planned in Software AG's Adabas & Natural 2050+ agenda.

ABOUT SOFTWARE AG

Software AG (Frankfurt TecDAX: SOW) helps companies with their digital transformation. With Software AG's Digital Business Platform, companies can better interact with their customers and bring them on new 'digital' journeys, promote unique value propositions, and create new business opportunities. In the Internet of Things (IoT) market, Software AG enables enterprises to integrate, connect and manage IoT components as well as analyze data and predict future events based on Artificial Intelligence (AI). The Digital Business Platform is built on decades of uncompromising software development, IT experience and technological leadership. Software AG has more than 4,500 employees, is active in 70 countries and had revenues of €879 million in 2017. To learn more, visit www.softwareag.com.

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