 UNIVERSITY LEIPZIG

University of Leipzig—A Tradition of Breaking New Ground
The University of Leipzig was founded in 1409. Today it has 14 academic departments and more than 150 research institutes. About 30,000 students are enrolled at the University of Leipzig. Approximately 2,700 are from countries other than Germany. Following the introduction of Bachelor’s and Master’s programs, the University of Leipzig currently offers 100 degree programs, from A for African Studies to Z for Zoology.

Industry
Research and Education

Opportunity
The University of Leipzig faces several major challenges. Recognizing trends in the private sector, responding faster and better to changing industry requirements, teaching theory through practice and setting new standards in education are at the top of the list. Only by achieving this can an excellent university thoroughly prepare its students for their future careers.

Solution Set
ARIS

Key Benefits
• Students employ professional software to solve life-like problems
• They enjoy the chance to learn outside of the traditional classroom
• Theoretical principles become anchored through practical experience

SERVICE-ORIENTED EDUCATION

OPTIMAL PREPARATION
FOR STUDENTS ENTRY INTO THE WORK WORLD

Service-Oriented Architecture (SOA) and Business Process Management (BPM) are growth markets worldwide. In the medium to long term, the demand for specialists in these fields will be very great. It is thus necessary to recognize opportunities for collaboration with the private sector and share the responsibility for equipping the market with the needed talent.

The University of Leipzig considers close and sustained cooperation with companies to be a valuable opportunity. Since 2009 the University of Leipzig has been offering market-oriented projects developed by Software AG specifically for educators. Not only do students glean technical skills, but more importantly they establish professional social skills and contact to a company as well.

“Market-oriented education is of pivotal importance, especially in technical degree programs. [...] So I am very grateful for the opportunity to start collaborating with a global corporation and a new and strong partner like Software AG.”

— Prof. Dr. Franz Häuser | President of University of Leipzig
The University of Leipzig and Software AG are pleased about their successful partnership. Everyone involved has benefited. Students employ professional software to solve life-like problems; and they enjoy the chance to learn outside of the traditional classroom. Theoretical principles become anchored through practical experience. Professors receive support from Software AG’s University Relations department. Furthermore, Software AG is able to play a role in the education of future IT specialists.

The beginning of the partnership

The partnership between University of Leipzig and Software AG began in 2009 when Software AG donated software with a market value of €3 million. Following this remarkable step, the first SOA project was launched in the winter semester of 2009/2010.

Project evolution

Software AG’s education project is based on a realistic scenario: A virtual company that works with antiquated mainframe applications wants to integrate its systems and make them more user-friendly. Business Informatics students at the University of Leipzig spent an entire semester working to solve this problem with Software AG products. They successfully developed a browser-based, state-of-the-art application based on existing systems.

Support

Self-explanatory project packages enabled students to work independently. With the help of “cookbooks,” they were introduced to the uses and applications of BPM and SOA. Whenever questions arose, Software AG employees were always available to assist.

An extraordinary result

The effort was rewarded. The project had huge resonance and was acknowledged outside the walls of the university. Professor Sabine Freifrau von Schorlemer, Minister of Science and Art for the German federal state of Saxony, praised the partnership between the University of Leipzig and Software AG: “This should serve as an example. Practice-oriented education provides the best prerequisites for students who want the optimal preparation for their entry into the work world.”

Students were also very pleased with their accomplishments: “The Software AG project gave us the chance to apply skills that we had learned in the classroom” (Robert S.). “The project was interesting and challenging—and a nice change from theoretical classes and seminars. The workload for everyone involved was reasonable” (Anton F.). “The cookbooks provided us with all the necessary information for getting started” (Artem S.).

Looking toward the future

Professor Bogdan Franczyk, whose department was the first in Leipzig to conduct the teaching project, is convinced by this approach. “It is a valuable experience that complements our master’s program very well,” he said. “Students learn to apply theory they have learned in class in a practical way under time and performance pressure. We plan to continue developing and expanding this concept with Software AG.” Director of the Institute of Business Informatics at the University of Leipzig, Professor Rainer Alt, agrees with his colleague and emphasizes how important the collaboration with Software AG has been in achieving the research focus on complex service systems engineering.

Thanks to ongoing dialog with Software AG, the university was able to provide feedback from its experience with the projects. Software AG embraced this feedback to make changes accordingly. The customized design of the projects thus allows the university to influence the focus and introduce new subjects to students. In addition to SOA, the project includes exercises in BPM as well. The University of Leipzig is already looking forward to further collaboration with Software AG.

ABOUT SOFTWARE AG

The digital transformation is changing enterprise IT landscapes from inflexible application silos to modern software platform-driven IT architectures which deliver the openness, speed and agility needed to enable the digital real-time enterprise. Software AG offers the first end-to-end Digital Business Platform, based on open standards, with integration, process management, in-memory data, adaptive application development, real-time analytics and enterprise architecture management as core building blocks. The modular platform allows users to develop the next generation of application systems to build their digital future, today. With over 45 years of customer-centric innovation, Software AG is ranked as a leader in many innovative and digital technology categories. Learn more at www.SoftwareAG.com.

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