



BAWAG Versicherung... better insured across the board

Since 1985 BAWAG-Versicherung AG is an important cooperation-partner of the BAWAG-P.S.K. Group. The company stands for respectability, continuity and flexibility and always orientates itself at the market.

The Data-Processing Department of BAWAG P.S.K. operates an IBM-mainframe of the z-Series. VSE/ESA is used as the operating system. The BAWAG Versicherung (BAWAG Insurance) has outsourced the mainframe to the data-centre of the bank. The production data is stored in VSAM-files and DL/I- or DB2-databases (SQL-DS). The DP-department of the BAWAG Versicherung develops applications in the area of live insurances. The network of the corporation is heterogeneous: WINDOWS based Client Server (C/S) systems communicate with UNIX systems and with the mainframe.

Harald Negrin, DP-Manager of BAWAG Versicherung AG, remembers: "We were looking for a possibility to directly access our VSAM- and DL/I-databases from MS-Office-applications. The alternative was to extract the data at night from the mainframe files and transfer it with FTP to a server. But this was not sufficient for us, we wanted to access the data from our Windows-applications independent of the mainframe. We did some research on the Internet and found tcACCESS on the web-site of B.O.S. Software GmbH. We have visited a tcACCESS user here in Vienna and he told us about his experiences with tcACCESS. Next, we contacted the vendor and obtained more information about tcACCESS."

The contact to B.O.S. was established and it was agreed to demonstrate tcACCESS in-house in Vienna. Mr. Negrin: "In the forefront of the demo we have spoken to a technical person from B.O.S. who explained to us how tcACCESS works. The offer from B.O.S. to demonstrate the product in-house with our own data really convinced us."

In January 2006 a system engineer from B.O.S. visited BAWAG Versicherung AG and installed tcACCESS. On this day a PC program has been developed that accessed the DL/I-database using ODBC. B.O.S. also demonstrated how a Windows-program could directly call a CICS-program using the Stored Procedure facility of tcACCESS.

Harald Negrin: "We then started a testing period and used tcACCESS extensively. We were surprised when we saw all of the possibilities that we could use. Whenever we had questions, we could contact the support from B.O.S. and we got help. At the end of the testing period we have demonstrated tcACCESS to the BAWAG Versicherung and could convince our management to go ahead with the product. "

Meanwhile various tcACCESS based applications are in production. One application has been developed in VB.NET. It uses tcACCESS ODBC to access the SQL-DS databases. The application is used twice in a month to extract data from the mainframe and to directly import the data into an Oracle database.

Harald Negrin: "The possibility for the C/S group to access the production data on the mainframe has become a reality with tcACCESS. Our current project is called „Replacement of the existing Asset-Management System by a new System“. Part of this project is "Asset Migration". To prepare both teams for this project, the HOST development- and the C/S development- team, it was a necessity to familiarize the C/S team with the structures of the DL/I databases. This ensures a successful and constructive teamwork of both teams during the migration project. This means that - whenever necessary - the C/S group can help the HOST development team with applications that support the migration effort. Our development team for C/S applications can now use SQL syntax to access DL/I and VSAM using the tcACCESS ODBC driver-component. This relieves the HOST development team from spontaneous reporting requests. Our HOST developers can now fully focus on their principal tasks like tariff adaptations, implementation of new legal requirements etc. "

After one year of tcACCESS experience Harald Negrin draws a conclusion: "We are very happy with tcACCESS. All of our expectations have been met. B.O.S. is a partner to us that is competent and supportive. Thanks to tcACCESS we have been able to create a close working relationship between the HOST development- and the C/S development-team. The core-system and the supporting-systems now work optimal together. For both worlds the other world has become transparent. Our expectations have been fulfilled. The investment in tcACCESS has paid off. "



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