



Go Online and don't queue up

ekom21 GmbH is a joint venture of the *Kommunale Informationsverarbeitung in Hessen (KIV Hesse)* and of the *Kommunale Gebietsrechenzentrum Kassel*.

The head office of the company is in Gießen; branches are located in Darmstadt and Kassel. ekom21 supports more than 30.000 end users in approximately 550 municipal authorities.



The company has specialized in state-of-the-art information- and communication-technologies for public authorities. ekom21 looks back on more than 30 years of experience in that sector. The development of eGovernment solutions represents a major part of the activities. For a variety of online-services ekom21 has been the first vendor in Germany to provide these services.

The data center of ekom21 operates mainframes with the OS/390 operating system. The extensive amount of production data for the numerous municipal applications is managed by modern database management systems.

In addition to the decentralized products ekom21 also offers products that run as central applications. The company also offers a suite of eGovernment applications that can be used with highly secured connections.

For years, the shareholders of ekom21 GmbH, the *Kommunale Informationsverarbeitung in Hessen (KIV)* and the *Kommunale Gebietsrechenzentrum Kassel*, are customers of B.O.S. They use products like BOS-Help, BOS-Pack, and BOS-Skip.

End of 2000 the KIV started to use tcACCESS. Ulrich Künkel, Managing Director of ekom21 GmbH: "To develop and provide eGovernment applications has always been one of our primary goals. It is the job of tcACCESS to help us meeting these goals."

During fall of 2003 additional projects have been started to enable public and municipal authorities to access their data using a Browser.

tcACCESS was the adequate solution to allow access from Web-Applications to the production databases. An important part of the eGovernment suite of products is **ewo21**, an application that also accesses the data of the resident's registration. Ulrich Künkel: "We offer a variety of reporting and analytic capabilities to the municipal offices. They use them to perform their day-to-day operations and **ewo21** helps them in their decision-making processes. As an example, it is possible to analyze whether the current school- and kindergarten-offerings are still sufficient for the near future or whether additional facilities should be considered. Any type of report or statistical analysis is possible – the end-user can define the selection criteria. tcACCESS assumes responsibility that the data is being safely retrieved from the mainframe. It goes without saying that all legal requirements are being met and that the end-user can only work with data that he has authorization for. Protecting the citizen and the data of the citizen is very important to us". (refer to user story "Bundling Of Competences").

In the meantime tcACCESS has become a strategic solution and is an indispensable part of various applications. Andreas Horder, Project Manager at ekom21 GmbH: "One of our important eGovernment applications is a datapool for our Security Agencies. The data of the pool is provided by a software product called PAMELA. This software covers all requirements and processes of a Registration Office. In the State of Hesse PAMELA is being used by 390 Municipal Administrations." Municipal governments, that do not use PAMELA, transfer their registration data to a Web-Portal maintained at the Kassel data-centre. A secured network is used

for the transfer. The data gets processed at the data-centre and is implemented into the ADABAS databases on the mainframe. This is the responsibility of tcACCESS ODBC. Andreas Horder: "The daily updates can reflect the registration data of approx. 1 million residents of the State of Hesse. Processing this mass of data by tcACCESS goes off without a hitch every day."

Another application is ZEMA. Ulrich Künkel: "ZEMA provides a service to inquire the residents data. It is maintained by ekom21 GmbH, the IT service provider for local governments and the Bavarian *Anstalt für Kommunale Datenverarbeitung in Bayern (AKDB)*. Altogether the databases of ekom21 GmbH and AKDB contain data of more than 18,5 million residents."

Information from the Residents Registry are requested by lawyers, banks, insurance companies, dept collecting agencies etc. Normally these requests are very time-consuming and people-intensive. ZEMA provides a fast and easy access to the Registry. The access to the mainframe databases from the Web-Portal is done with tcACCESS.

Ulrich Künkel: "We already had high utilization figures for ZEMA when we started: approximately 10,000 requests per month. We expect an increase towards 100,000 and even more. ZEMA results in a considerable relief of the Registry Agencies and leads to a considerable improvement, better efficiency and cost reduction for the process execution at the private institutions that use the service. This in itself guarantees an economic benefit. It is our goal to have a coupling of all Registry Databases in Germany. ekom21 GmbH, the Bavarian *Anstalt für Kommunale Datenverarbeitung in Bayern (AKDB)*, the *Data-centre of Baden-Wuerttemberg and d-NRW (North Rhine-Westphalia)* are developing a system under the umbrella of VITAKO, which is a federal joint venture of IT Service Providers for Municipal Governments. The production use of the software will start in November 2007."

Andreas Horder summarizes the experiences with tcACCESS: "tcACCESS is our special SQL-Engine. Whenever we need to access our mainframe databases from Windows-, UNIX- or Web-Applications we use tcACCESS. We can use the tcACCESS ODBC component and SQL statements to directly access ADABAS."

Ulrich Künkel draws a conclusion: "B.O.S. provides an efficient and competent support to us, even when help is needed for resolutions of non-ordinary tasks. The excellent product features of tcACCESS combined with the support of B.O.S. assure a continuous and successful use of tcACCESS at ekom21 GmbH."



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