

## The many facets of success!

*Maintaining tradition and blazing new trails - these were the twin objectives that Merck Finck & Co set itself at the time of its foundation more than 130 years ago. Clarity and farsightedness in corporate strategy, openness and team spirit in corporate culture - these are the elements which together secure the long-term success of an enterprise. At Merck Finck & Co, therefore, the values formulated by our employees complement the strategy put in place by our management.*



Maintaining tradition and blazing new trails, the motto also applies to the data processing department. The connecting link between Old and New is tcACCESS!

The DP environment at Merck Finck & Co. is very heterogeneous. The nerve centre is an IBM MP2003-206 with 256 MB main storage and more than 36 Gigabyte disk storage. The mainframe operates VM with VSE/ESA 2.2. The Online system is CICS/VS. Operational data is stored under ADABAS of Software AG. Beside the mainframe environment in Munich, connections also exist to OS/390 based mainframe systems at Landesbank in Hamburg and to the Frankfurt based DWZ. On top of that, the heterogeneous landscape distinguishes the remaining part of the DP structure: from DEC-VMS applications, via RS6000 AIX-Systems to UNISYS and WINDOWS NT, the palette of operating systems is quite versatile. WINDOWS NT has become the strategic platform for LAN/WAN. „Because of our individual applications and our heterogeneous environment, it was our declared goal, to establish an integrated data-household using standard interfaces“, remembers Harald Scherr, Manager Systems programming. „The only problem was, that our mainframe was not open for these requirements.“

The contact to B.O.S. was established at a tcACCESS road show in Munich. „The concept and the way, this concept has been implemented in tcACCESS convinced us and we put the system on trial“, Harald Scherr continues. „The most important for us was the fact, that using tcACCESS we can access our ADABAS database with plain SQL-statements.“ At the day of install the first results were already available: ADABAS database structures, which are stored in the PREDICT dictionary were processed by tcACCESS with no problems. These structures are the base of a variety of SQL access-possibilities. „Neither Periodoc Groups nor Multiple Field Values have been a problem to tcACCESS. During the trial period we really put tcACCESS to the acid test“, quotes Harald Scherr. „Besides importing the PREDICT information we have also imported PL/I record and file descriptions. Again, no problem. We also tested the access to our mainframe files from JAVA programs; and the

communication from BATCH mainframe programs with tcACCESS using APPC has completed our tests. Not to mention the easy integration of the product into our existing security concept. We also implemented out programs as Stored Procedures into the tcACCESS access. During the trial period, the B.O.S. support team provided a very professional help. They not only helped us by answering questions concerning the product but have been very knowledgeable in other areas as well. How to develop in JAVA, that's just an example!“ Harald Scherr summarizes the companies' positive experiences.

The decision was made to purchase tcACCESS. During the first year, already a number of qualified employees are using the product. They individually formulate SQL queries. „An analysis tool, which can't be missed by the end users anymore.“ Wolfgang Hügel, Manager Application Development appreciates the flexibility offered by SQL in conjunction with tcACCESS. „For us, our ADABAS databases have now become relational tables. We very frequently use the SQL DECODE-function to translate abbreviated data into meaningful information.“ tcACCESS is used by MS-ACCESS applications to access ADABAS- and VSAM-tables and modify selected records. End user departments are using these applications. „We did not have maintenance programs for these tables, because we never could justify development of these programs. As a result, changes to the tables had to be done by DP-personnel using system tools. The maintenance of the tables is now the responsibility of the end users“ adds Harald Scherr. Another application is the access to ADABAS from MS-WORD documents. Using VBA macros, the user is prompted for a customer- or account-number; the data is directly selected out of ADABAS and inserted into the document. „We plan additional applications in the MS-Office area.“ Harald Scherr knows that success has multiple facets, even in data processing.

Contacts:  
Wolfgang Hügel – Merck Finck & Co.

Tel: +49-89-2104-1462  
E-Mail: wolfgang.huegel@merckfinck.de  
www.merckfinck.de

Peter M. Horbach  
B.O.S. Software Service und Vertrieb GmbH  
Tel: +49-89-4619930  
E-Mail: Peter.Horbach@bossoftware.de  
www.bossoftware.de