

## The Future needs Visions and Security

The LVG *Labor-Verrechnungsgesellschaft* is the oldest factoring organisation for dental laboratories in Germany. With over 20 years of experience LVG knows the sensibility of the market and the needs of their customers.

Dental labs are facing more and more challenges. The quality of their work and a timely delivery is a must and on the other hand payment targets must be met that represent an extreme financial burden for the lab owners.

*"The LVG acts as a financing bridge and stabilizes the liquidity of a dental laboratory. This ensures a solid financial base."*

– Werner Hörmann - CEO

The LVG operates a VSE/ESA based IT department in the centre of Stuttgart, Germany. All strategic applications have been developed in COBOL. The production data is stored on VSAM files. The main application is an accounting system that consists of more than 300 programs.

It is the intention of the LVG to provide the best possible service to the customers. As a result of that intention the decision was made to offer a new service to the customers allowing a web-based access to their data. Wolfgang Stehle, Manager IT, says: "We wanted to be present in the Internet and offer a Web application that would provide an open item management to our customers. To do this, we had to find a way to access our VSAM files from a Web-application." First tests were started with a JAVA software package to access the VSAM files. Wolfgang Stehle: "The software that we were using was based on the VSE-connectors provided by IBM. We had to cancel this test because the performance of this solutions was totally unacceptable. However, we didn't give up and have searched the Internet for alternative solutions to access our mainframe files."

As a result of the Internet searches LVG learned about tcACCESS from B.O.S. Software. Wolfgang Stehle: "It was a user story about a tcACCESS VSE customer in Stuttgart that caught our attention (*"We wish you health"*). We got in touch with the person that was listed as contact in the story and heard a lot of good things about the power and flexibility of tcACCESS before we actually contacted B.O.S."

A proof of concept of tcACCESS was scheduled. During the first few days after the installation of tcACCESS LVG successfully developed VBA macros to access the VSAM files and the VSE POWER-queues from office applications. Benjamin Stehle, application programmer at LVG, says: "It really was exciting when we saw all the possibilities that tcACCESS made available to us. Our VSAM files no longer were out of reach, we could use SQL statements to access the files and have the production data right at our fingertips. Already in the first two weeks after the installation we developed a number of applications that we gave to our colleagues. We used the examples from the B.O.S. website for guidance. That



made everything very easy for us." A support engineer from B.O.S. visited LVG and helped them to further build up their knowledge.

In the meantime the first tcACCESS applications are in production. The customers of LVG, dental labs in Germany, can use a secured connection to login to the system. They can display their open items and can create PDF reports to print them. Benjamin Stehle: "This service has been very well received by our customers. We have implemented a security concept to make sure, that only authorized persons have access to the customer data. The customer data is stored in a MySQL-database. We use tcACCESS to synchronize this database with the mainframe." LVG uses the Open System Transparency (OST) component of tcACCESS. If a VSE COBOL program modifies a VSAM file it uses the tcACCESS OST interface to also apply the same change into the MySQL-database. Benjamin Stehle: "B.O.S. always has been a very competent support partner for us. Not only to answer our questions but also to implement new functions into tcACCESS that we needed. I remember one example where B.O.S. implemented the MySQL LIMIT function into the tcACCESS ODBC-driver on our request."

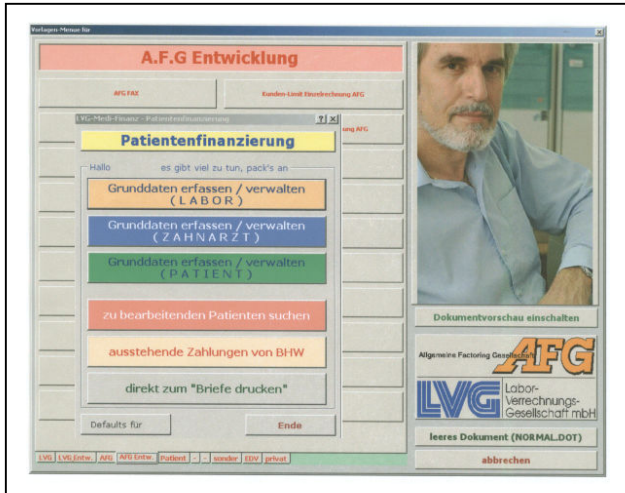
The salt in the soup, however, are all the powerful little helpers, that are now available to the LVG employees through tcACCESS. Wolfgang Stehle: "We have developed quite a number of VBA macros that use tcACCESS ODBC to access the VSE production data. The VSAM files are now transparently integrated into the working environments of our people."

Additional projects are in the development pipeline. A new archiving system will be developed that uses tcACCESS to access the VSE POWER print-queues. tcACCESS offers some interesting functions to access a mainframe report. For example, a unique processing of the MCC (Machine Control Character) is available to transfer the mainframe specific formatting options to the new world. Wolfgang Stehle: "tcACCESS has become an important and strategic factor of our IT department. We could not live without it. We are curious to see what B.O.S. is planning for the future.."

Contact:  
Wolfgang Stehle – LVG GmbH  
Fon: +49-711-66671-15  
E-Mail: [WStehle@lvg.de](mailto:WStehle@lvg.de)  
[www.lvg.de](http://www.lvg.de)

Peter M. Horbach – B.O.S. Software GmbH  
Fon: +49-89-4619930  
E-Mail: [peter.horbach@bossoftware.de](mailto:peter.horbach@bossoftware.de)  
[www.bossoftware.de](http://www.bossoftware.de)

### Application examples



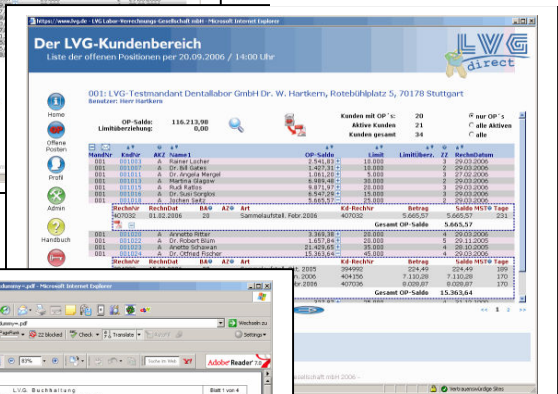
Every employee uses individual VBA macros. These macros guarantee a consistent and standardized user interface. Certain macro functions use tcACCESS ODBC to access VSAM files on the VSE mainframe. Example: A customer number that is part of a WORD document will be used to access the address information in the VSAM file and the address becomes part of the WORD document.



The Web application provides a secured access for the customers. These are dental labs in Germany.



The customers have access to their open items and can maintain them.



With a mouse-click only the customer can select an item from the item roster and sees the details of the item. The open item list can be dynamically generated as a PDF file.

The application data is stored in a MySQL-database. This database is synchronized in realtime with the VSE VSAM files using the Open System Transparency component of tcACCESS.

