

New Ways – New Chances

VBL - DIE SICHERE VERSORGUNG
AUS EINER HAND



For more than 75 years the VBL – "Versorgungsanstalt des Bundes und der Länder" carries out the pension schemes for the employees in the public service. The VBL administers contributions and cost allocations from employers and employees amounting to approximately 10 billion Euros. Approximately 1 million retirees receive a retirement pension supplement from VBL in addition to the normal pension. Nearly 340 million Euros of retirement pension supplements are paid every month by the VBL. Currently nearly 5,400 employers and approx. 4 million insureds use the services provided by the governed-by- public-law-institution in Karlsruhe. Basis of the company funds are the agreements on tariffs between the employers and the unions.

In addition VBL offers insurance products that can be used as voluntary based additional funded pension insurance systems.

The IT-department of the Karlsruhe-based institution is approx. 100 employees in size. Currently a mainframe system with the z/OS operating system is in use. In addition to the mainframe SAP-systems are operated. "For many years now our production data is stored in databases. " says Peter Salm, IT Group Manager. "We have applications of different kinds. Basically everything is available: from Assembler via COBOL and PL/I to Fourth Generation Languages and JAVA. "

To meet the demands of the user departments it was requested to display documents at the Windows PC that had been prepared on the mainframe with AFP. Peter Salm: "We were searching for a replacement of our host-based application for the viewing of the archives. It was our goal to introduce paperless files and to reduce the administrative efforts."

The new mainframe application should be capable to initiate the transfer of the AFP document and the subsequent display or print of that document on a Windows machine.

The first contact of VBL with tcACCESS was on a road show in Stuttgart. Peter Salm: "The tcACCESS approach seemed to be the one we were looking for. To meet our requirements we scheduled a trial installation to see whether our expectations could be met." After all technical requirements had been identified and put in place a test project was initiated together with B.O.S. Software. Mr. Salm remembers: "Our expectations in tcACCESS and B.O.S. were very high. We wanted the new application to be seamlessly integrated in our existing procedures. In the early stages B.O.S. helped us with words and deeds. The cooperation with B.O.S. was really fantastic! I have rarely met a support team that was so reliable and efficient. "

The application is based on the tcACCESS Listener functionality. The host application (NATURAL/

ADABAS) writes the data, that should be displayed or printed on the Windows machine, into a CICS Temporary Storage Queue. The application then uses the tcACCESS API to start a tcACCESS task. This task communicates with the tcACCESS Windows component; a process is being started on the Windows machine. This process retrieves the data from the CICS Temporary Storage Queue and starts a Compart-Viewer to display or print the data.

Wolfgang Fleckenstein, assistant IT-Group Manager Application Development, says: "The processing has been further enhanced in the meantime. Our goal is a totally paperless administration. Incoming letters or other documents are stored in our ImagePlus-Archive on the mainframe. This is based on a combination of DB2-tables where the document indexes are stored and storage media that is accessed using OAM (Object Access Method). Meanwhile, the original application to display coded documents has been enhanced to also support non-coded, scanned documents. This data is also stored in the ImagePlus-Archive on the mainframe. "

Dieter Böß, Team Leader, summarizes: „Through the use of tcACCESS we have been able to provide the basis for a fast introduction of the "Paperless File" in the area of Voluntary Insurances. This has enabled us to implement an administration that is service-oriented and close to our customers. The flexibility has been increased when we replaced the old host-print function. tcACCESS is a solution that helps us performing a variety of other special functions, i.e. statistics and reports. The cooperation with B.O.S. is outstanding. Fast reaction is one of the significant attributes of the B.O.S. Support Team. Our partnership with B.O.S. is based upon success.“



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