

CASE STUDY

IHK Industrie und Handelskammer zu Köln

Cologne Chamber of Commerce and Industry



“Modernizing our BS2000 has been risk free, smooth, and achieved it’s goals. We significantly lowered our license and maintenance costs...and are now future proof”.

Mr. Thomas Kirchrath Head of Information Technology, IHK Köln

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

IHK	Public Organization	Köln, Germany	www.ihk-koeln.de
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Challenge

- ▶ Reduce License and maintenance costs
- ▶ Create Homogeneous environment
- ▶ Achieve greater flexibility for further development as market needs demand evolution

Solution

IHK achieved the re-hosting of their BS2000 system onto a leaner, more agile Windows 2008 platform, with minimum operational disruption and zero change to their ERP application

Customer Benefits

- ▶ Major reduction in IT operating costs
- ▶ Homogeneous infrastructure is easier to manage
- ▶ Ease of further development and integration of “turn key solutions”
- ▶ Retaining previous stability and customer satisfaction
- ▶ Zero risk
- ▶ No change required to applications or workflow
- ▶ 100% leverage off all previous application investment

...whilst

↳ SHAKING OFF EXCESS LEGACY BAGGAGE

Facing the two-pronged challenge of needing to trim its IT operating expenses, whilst expanding its IT services to deal with growing business complexity, the IHK management team faced the task of having to modernize the BS2000 Mainframe, whilst retaining the full functionality of its custom built ERP application along with the stability, reliability and availability of the BS2000.

IT executives converted these needs into a detailed requirement specification, in terms of hardware, operating and database management system, taking in to consideration future expansion forecasts.

Microsoft Windows 2008, operating on a Microsoft SQL Server 2008 were selected. The next question was “how to re-host and with whom?”

Initial post project forecasts show an incredible 8 month payback period is anticipated, with executives expecting to save more 60% monthly in licensing, maintenance, and energy while they are also looking forward to stronger productivity of their development teams and establishing stronger ties with client organizations.

“The cooperation between HTWC, certified Microsoft partner, Kramer & Crew and our in-house resources was transparent, flexible and at all times punctual”

Mr. Thomas Kirchrath Head of Information Technology, Director, IHK

↳ OUR CLIENT - INDUSTRIE UND HANDELSKAMMER (IHK) COLOGNE

The IHK (Chamber of Commerce & Industry) is a public organization whose mission is to integrate local and international businesses and organizations.

Their mission is to support the generation of trade to and from the greater Cologne region.

Local businesses are automatically members and can

access a major archive and network of resources locally, nationally and internationally to help them to develop their business.

State education and training exam boards are hosted by the IHK and constant measures are used to align regional skill sets with market requirements.

↳ SUPPORTING 6 DIFFERENT ORGANIZATION

IHK's IT Director, Mr. Thomas Kirchrath explained “the IHK data center is accessed by approximately 720 concurrent internal users using their custom built ERP system to conduct a myriad of transactions, accessing, exchanging and archiving information in real time, as well as supporting a very comprehensive web presence”.

Moreover, six other chambers of commerce organizations have outsourced their IT to IHK.

Mr. Kirchrath added, “The degree of stability in the BS2000 is the benchmark, and this must be guaranteed”.

↳ OUTGOING SITUATION

The onset of the global economic crisis has brought with it unprecedented cost cutting activities, whilst greater exploitation of asset potential is becoming a key differentiator. Unlike the crisis, this mindset is

here stay. The main driver for the IHK modernization project has been the prohibitive monthly operating costs. As usual in the case of BS2000, these costs are based upon the ability or power of the system to

compute a massive amounts of transactions in real time. In layman’s terms, the costs are relative to the system’s horse power.

“The original goals of our project have been achieved within the timeframe and budget expected”

Mr. Thomas Kirchrath Head of Information Technology, Director, IHK

Conversely, modern operating systems and applications are more lean and efficient, and don’t require the same amount of computational power. With the re-hosting software suite and techniques mastered by HTWC, a logical and feasible approach was to move these applications onto the Windows

STEPPING INTO THE FUTURE

The custom built IBBIS ERP system was developed by the IHK based upon the BS2000 architecture. The one to one, seamless re-hosting of this application to a leaner and more open environment was the key objective of this project.

The project goal was the emulation IBBIS, from a FSC BS2000/OSD environment to Windows Server 2008, on Unisys ES7000 Hardware.

Following a tabular overview of the software elements implemented during the course of the

PART	Software elements (Initial state)	Software elements (Outgoing)
Operating System	BS2000/OSD V.4.0	Microsoft Windows 2008
Compiler	COBOL85	Net Express 5.2
TP Monitor	openUTM	XCICS*
Database System	LEASY	Microsoft SQL Server 2008
Job Variable	SDF-P	HTWC XBM HTWC XFRAME Batch Edition*
Utilities	PERCON, EDT, SORT, openFT	XBATCH, XSORT, MosCON

* HTWC® proprietary modernization suite

2008 operating system, which indeed uses 75% of the computational power, thus lowering costs correspondingly.

Additionally, through the use of the application compiler, IBBIS is now in a more efficient development environment, enabling application expansion and integration of “off the shelf” applications.

“Our working system has not been changed, it is just leaner and more agile and at no stage was there any danger that previous stability would be compromised”

Mr. Thomas Kirchrath Head of Information Technology, Director, IHK

project XFRAME is the HTWC suite of applications used to migrate legacy applications into the new environment. It is completely scalable, reliable, and highly automated which runs programs written in COBOL, EASYTRIEVE, PL/I and C languages in a Windows environment. It contains a transaction server to execute CICS and IMS/DC applications and a complete batch environment to run Mainframe batch processes from BS2000 systems.

Net Express 5.2 is the compiler we used in this project to enable IBBIS integrate seamlessly into the new environment.

The HTWC “VSAM 2 Relational” application was used to migrate the LEASY ISAM data files system, into SQL relational database system upon which IBBIS now operates. The “Single Source Management” component, “HOST2WIN” has been used to enable both batch and online applications run on the Windows environment, requiring very little code modification. this way the “freezing period” has been reduced to the minimum and restricted to two-three days immediately before the entrance in exercise.

↳ OUT FROM THE OLD AND INTO THE NEW

HTWC employs a tried and trusted project management methodology designed to systematically deal with the complexity involved, whilst enabling a degree of flexibility and creating transparency for all involved.

The success of any project is determined by the subjective commitment of key stakeholders before the project starts. “Why modernize a working system?”

A key element of all HTWC’s project methodology is the transparency throughout the project, in the relationship between the business drivers, the concept and the subsequent project implementation. End users felt zero impact during or after the project,

and only very few, randomly selected users were involved in the project for test purposes. In total, approximately 500 internal man days were required, which is quite sensational for a revolutionary project of this magnitude.

This is an ongoing relationship “Our mission is to guide our customers through the evolution of their IT systems and beyond... beyond the change”

Mr. Marco Grossi, CEO HTWC

“This is a further testament to the effectiveness of the project management methodology employed, and the degree of automation supported” according to Mr. Kirchrath.

↳ PRODUCTION LINE EFFICIENCY

The successfully completed project sees the ERP IBBIS application requiring significantly less processing power and licenses, and therefore lowering the operating costs by 75%.

The expected payback period in terms of savings is in the region of 8 months.

Quite an incredible result and testament to the vision of the client to initiate such a project for a functioning system at a time when budgets are being tightened.

It was the perfect IT strategy.

Now the homogenous system working off a modern Cobol compiler enjoys high degree of compatibility

with modern off the shelf solutions and bespoke development, using tools and languages available in abundance.

In addition, the financial, commercial and otherwise reporting capabilities through the SQL server have been greatly simplified, easing huge effort in the reporting effort for both standard and ad-hoc reporting effort.

Congratulations to IHK on your decision to re-host; you are now leaner, greener and future proof!

↳ We are HTWC

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- Absolute market leader in mainframe re-hosting and migration
- 97% of migration fully automated
- Over 30 years experience
- Truly global
- All sectors