KOENIG & BAUER

Going into press
Success story

windream
MANAGING DOCUMENTS

Going into press

Individualized document management at the printing machines manufacturer Koenig & Bauer AG

In 1814, when Friedrich Koenig's cylinder printing machine printed the London "Times" newspaper using a steam engine for the first time ever, the machine age had only just begun in Germany. Three years later, Koenig and his companion Andreas Bauer founded the rapid press factory Koenig & Bauer in the Oberzell monastery situated near Würzburg. Since this time, Würzburg has been the home of the "Koenig & Bauer Aktiengesellschaft" (KBA), which nowadays – with a market share of 14 percent – counts amongst the three leading manufacturers of printing systems in the world. The enterprise employs 2,000 people at its Würzburg head-quarters. Since 2003, about 700 of them have been working with the windream document management and archiving system now.

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Future investment

Investing into a new, modern and powerful archive with an integrated DMS was "a must" for Richard Kestler, manager in charge of process-oriented application systems, and for Stefan Gerhard, SAP HR and DMS application consultant at the Würzburg headquarters. Before purchasing windream, the enterprise had already been working with an electronic archive. However, KBA wanted some more convenient DMS-functions, which could not be offered by the archive they had been using at that time. An effective web integration with DMS and archive access was especially interesting in this context.

Instead of visiting fairs and attending presentations held by system suppliers to get informed on currently available DM-systems, KBA Würzburg rather relied on the positive experience their Austrian subsidiary KBA-Mödling at Maria Enzersdorf near Vienna had recently made with windream. KBA-Mödling, a supplier of aggregates for offset, newspaper and bond paper printing machines, has traditional and close relations to the Würzburg headquarters. Thus, an intensive information exchange – especially in the IT-sector – was evident. "We realized very quickly", says Richard Kestler, "that the windream-specific features exactly met our individual needs. Installations at other windream customers like Swisscom and Bayer AG confirmed that windream was well prepared to be used in big enterprises and thus fulfilled our requirements." And Stefan Gerhard adds: "Compared to other systems, we especially liked windream's easy system handling via the Windows Explorer and the close integration of DMS and archiving functions." These were the decisive features for KBA. Further on, the integration of windream into the existing IT-infrastructure required no programming efforts, since all DMS-users at KBA have access to the windream drive directly via the Windows Explorer. Thus, training efforts were reduced to a minimum.

Access also via Share Drive

In this context, the windream Share Drive is especially interesting for KBA. The Share Drive is a virtual network drive which allows users to access windream documents under different operating systems using a common network share. The Share Drive supports all operating systems which are able to address conventional Microsoft Windows network drives. After being shared, the windream drive appears in the system neighborhood of all connected computers. From there, KBA-users have access to the documents stored in the folder structures of the shared windream drive directly – even if no windream client application has been installed on their workstations.

From sales to shipping - multiple application fields

Meanwhile, Richard Kestler and Stefan Gerhard have extended the range of application fields to various KBA enterprise divisions.

For example, the finance department using SAP's ERP-system administers and archives incoming invoices with windream via windream ArcLink, which connects SAP-applications to windream. windream ArcLink is fully certified by SAP and enables the users to access the archived documents either from SAP directly or from the windream DMS/archive without using SAP's interface. Further on, the purchase department uses windream to administer order forms, while the receiving department archives delivery notes in windream.

Archiving and retrieving machine files, order forms, machine image files, check lists and letters of complaint count amongst the global enterprise activities beyond the borders of departments. Further on, KBA manages and archives KBA-specific documents such as product sheets, security data sheets, project documentations, correspondence with suppliers as well as delivery notes and invoices. The sales department manages customer files, offers and orders with windream, whereas the human resources department archives travel expense reports and time tracking documents. Besides the Windows Explorer, all documents are also accessible via the windream Web Portal.

Key Facts:

✓ Individual modification of the windream retrieval application

✓ Flexible access to archived documents

✓ Easy handling

✓ Seamless integration of document management and archiving functions

✓ Universal usability

Highlight: "Supplier's cockpit"

Concerning the web portal: A very special highlight is the supplier's cockpit. Designed as an extraordinary service, it offers all KBA-suppliers the possibility to access order forms and all associated documents online via the internet from external side.

Individualized search

Richard Kestler and Stefan Gerhard are especially focused on their individualized retrieval application via the windream Web Portal, which has been adjusted by themselves using the windream Software Development Kit (SDK). Using the descriptions of the windream object model in the SDK, the two IT-experts customized the complex retrieval options and adjusted them to individually required search requests of KBA's staff. In order to achieve this, the default dialog boxes for entering search items were partly modified. The modified system now nearly represents a black box principle.

KBA-users are only offered four different input fields and an optional document type selection dropdown list. This simplified input mechanism is quite effective in finding and viewing all desired documents in the electronic KBA-archive within a very short period of time.

The system generates search profiles which are executed immediately on the basis of the entries made. Internally initiated processes are completely hidden. The retrieval processes have been designed according to a fuzzy logic principle and only require a minimum of time for entering search criteria. Nevertheless, the system will find any document stored in the archive within seconds.

Additionally, the visual appearance of the windream Web Portal has been adjusted to the enterprise's corporate design – a further option the web portal offers.

Individual windream solutions

Koenig & Bauer have purchased further add-on solutions developed by windream GmbH to enhance their windream system. These add-ons extend the document management system by specific functions, e.g. the windream DocView document viewer and the windream thumbnail view program. The latter, a server-based module, creates thumbnails of stored documents and displays the associated index properties. As it identifies document modifications as well, it updates the thumbnails and index information automatically.

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About: The Koenig & Bauer Aktiengesellschaft (KBA)

Since 1827, Koenig & Bauer as the oldest factory for printing machines has its headquarters in Würzburg, Germany. There, about 2,000 employees produce newspaper rotation machines. With a market share of about 14 percent, the complete KBA enterprise group is the third largest manufacturer of printing systems of the world and an important partner of the international graphical industry.

Besides the Würzburg headquarters, KBA also runs factories in Frankenthal, Radebeul and Trennfeld. The KBA-group also includes the machine factories KBA-Mödling AG near Vienna/Austria and KBA North America Inc. situated in the U.S. state of Vermont. Further distribution and service companies in Great Britain, France, Italy, Switzerland, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Brazil, Russia, China, Australia, Malaysia and Singapore as well as a global network of offices ensure the worldwide distribution of KBA printing machines. About 8,300 employees work in the KBA group.

Complex folder: machine files

With these two applications, documents can be identified and viewed much quicker than with conventional methods, because the viewer enables users to read documents without having to start the associated original application: a great advantage, if a quick overview on complex folders with heterogeneous information like images and office documents is needed. Typical examples are project folders or – the use case at KBA – machine files.

All files which have been reproduced in electronic folders according to the enterprise-specific organization structures are indexed with the corresponding folder attributes. The required attributes are automatically extracted from SAP-applications while the machine files are generated. A further positive windream aspect becomes visible here, as – actually – the system does not only allow users to index documents, but also the folders in which the information is stored. This way, KBA-users can save much time while capturing and indexing new documents. Instead of assigning keywords to each document separately, most application cases require to assign attributes to the folder only once.

Pic: Printing machine KBA „Commander"

Flexible access options

According to Richard Kestler and Stefan Gerhard, the flexible access options to all information stored in the windream archive contribute to enormous time savings while retrieving documents. Users access archived documents via the Windows Explorer and via the default windream retrieval application as well. The efficient method of retrieving documents via the customized web portal adds a third option to the others. And, finally, access is also possible from SAP-applications.

Future wishes

According to Richard Kestler, the windream system could still be enhanced by a more flexible use of web services which – due to the existing system architecture – is already integrated in the sector of web-based document retrieval. Further on, KBA would appreciate a more intensive networking of windream customers to share their individual experiences.

Your contact at windream

If you are interested in more detailed information on integrations, solutions or products from the windream world, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Allow yourself to be convinced and decide in favor of windream!

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