

Paul Neuhaus lightens up the world

Success story



windream
MANAGING DOCUMENTS

Paul Neuhaus lightens up the world

ERP, DMS and financial accounting in one integrated system

The “Paul Neuhaus” group, based in Werl at the feet of Westphalia’s Sauerland is one of the leading producers of lamps in Germany and on the international market. The traditional company, which celebrated its fiftieth anniversary in 2012, has developed into

a globally active producer for lamps and complex lighting systems with individual designs in the course of its long history.

Paul Neuhaus - The company

The four companies of the Paul-Neuhaus group – “Paul Neuhaus – Lights for Living“, “Peill und Putzler Germany“, “LeuchtenDirekt“ and “Blicklicht“ – are managed from the Werl headquarters. The huge company site, which hosts a top-modern high-bay warehouse and the entire logistics and ma-

nagement departments of the company, is the place of work for about 140 employees. The company’s annual turnout amounts to roughly 65 million Euros. 100 employees work with the windream ECM system on their workstations.



Neuhaus
Lighting Group

2009 - the start of the windream project

Due to the expansion of the company and to general globalization trends, the internal IT structure became increasingly complex. Since 2009, the company has been using the windream ECM system for invoice archiving, next to an ERP system and the “Diamant” financial accounting system. The windream partner Scheffer & Hille GmbH from Sundern in the Sauerland region played a vital part in the implementation of this project.

In an interview with windream’s press spokesman, Michael Duhme, in the spring of 2014, Dominik Lüpker, IT manager at Paul Neuhaus, and Peter Langheim, system administrator at Scheffer & Hille and supervisor of the windream project, talked about the current state of things.



Aims and requirements

From the very beginning, the primary requirement towards the windream system consisted in the combination of the ERP and financial accounting systems with a digital archive, allowing the centralized archiving of all invoices without further user interactions. The windream partner Scheffer & Hille has been an advisor for the Paul Neuhaus IT department for several years. Therefore, it was an obvious decision to cooperate in finding an adequate solution, especially since the ERP software used at Paul Neuhaus is an in-house development by Scheffer & Hille. At the same time, Scheffer & Hille are also a long-time partner of the Bielefeld software provider "Diamant", whose financial accounting system is also used at Paul Neuhaus. "The requirements

towards a digital archive compatible with our existing IT structure were cost efficiency on the one hand and a quick and smooth installation on the other," IT specialist Dominik Lüpker explained during the interview. "With a specifically developed ERP system already in use at Paul Neuhaus and as a windream partner, it was a logical decision to implement the windream ECM system as an archiving component," adds Scheffer & Hille's Peter Langheim.

The windream archive has been running in productive use since the beginning of 2010. Ever since, it has been supporting the ERP system and, since 2011, the Diamant financial accounting software with the archiving of invoices.

Key Facts:

- ✓ ERP, financial accounting and windream ECM as an integrated system
- ✓ No additional stress for employees caused by new software
- ✓ Low investment requirements
- ✓ High performance
- ✓ Quick implementation into existing IT infrastructure

One million invoices per year

One business process corresponds to an average of five related documents. This adds up to about one million invoices per year – all of which need to be archived. The entire archive contains more than four million documents, and rising, at present. “From the very beginning, the

windream archive ran smoothly, efficiently and without any problems,” Dominik Lüpker is happy to report. The archived documents include delivery notes, order confirmations, orders, incoming invoices and all other kinds of documents related to business processes.



About: The windream-partner Scheffer & Hille GmbH

Scheffer & Hille GmbH from Sundern in Westphalia was founded as a company for office and data technology in 1982 and has been supporting many companies during their first steps in digital data management, not only in the Sauerland region. As a system house, Scheffer & Hille support their customers under the motto “all from one source”.

Next to hardware and software solutions, the company offers IT service and maintenance, up to the support of complex IT infrastructures. The service portfolio includes the implementation of networks, the provision of the required hardware and software and the protection of networks against unauthorized access. The service spectrum also includes the secure linking of stationary and mobile workstations, the implementation of communication software for e-mail, fax or SMS, the protection of workstations and Servers from malware, and spam filtering. Furthermore, the Scheffer & Hiller team includes experts for financial and payroll accounting software, merchandise management, production planning and warehouse management, and specialists for the creation of individual workflows, adjusted to the specific requirements of the customers.

Since 2009, the company has been a partner of windream GmbH and has been focusing on the implementation and configuration of Enterprise Content Management and archiving solutions based on the VFS technology ever since.



Retrieval

Of course, already archived invoices can be retrieved and displayed at any time. The users launch searches via the interface of the ERP system, but the actual search operation is carried out via the windream search application without the user noticing it. "This was an important factor for us," Dominik Lüpker says. "Our employees do not actually know windream, since the system runs invisibly in the background." This is exactly as it should be, since this makes training sessions and time-consuming introductions to program interfaces unnecessary.

During search operations – for example, when searching for invoices – the program will not only display the retrieved documents, but also all further documents associated with the respective process. This way, the user is always provided with an overview of the entire process, not just with single, isolated documents.

All three components – windream, the ERP system and the Diamant financial accounting software – are linked. During search operations, the three components communicate via indices, allowing the identification and retrieval of all receipts and documents after the archiving process. The linking of documents via fixed indices allows users to view and reproduce business processes with all associated documents. This is, for example, very important in the case of external requests – answers can be provided immediately and without delay. And what was it like in the past? "Off to the archive and find the hardcopy document!" laughs Dominik Lüpker, who is happy that the times of bothersome searches for hardcopy files and documents are long gone.

Barcode recognition and indexing

Incoming original documents, such as orders, are assigned a barcode, allowing a clear identification of the single documents at any later point. The documents are then digitally captured via the scan solution “QuickScan Pro“, which has been integrated into windream, and thus into all other IT components, via a software interface. In addition to the barcode labeling and indexing processes, further index properties are assigned, allowing search operations at later points. Finally, the digitally captured documents are imported into the merchandise management or into the ERP system for processing.

Storage in PDF format

Digitalized receipts are stored in the universal PDF format. To allow the exchange of documents and their meta-data between ERP, windream and Diamant, the converter “XML to windream“, a windream in-house development, is used. This converter supports the reading of indices on the basis of XML files and the forwarding of these indices to other software components, allowing a reading and processing of indices in other applications. All documents linked to a process always possess a barcode, allowing a clear identification at any later point.





Pic: Peter Langheim, Dominik Lüpker and Dr. Michael Duhme (windream)

“Diamant” - a special case

The employees in the financial accounting department at Paul Neuhaus process all incoming invoices. These documents are scanned and digitalized comparatively lately, since every invoice is first checked manually before being transferred to the Diamant financial accounting software in a digital form. This means that invoices are only digitalized once all required signatures have been added to the document. Once the invoices have been digitalized, they are transformed into PDF files, assigned barcodes and compliantly stored to windream – analogously to the processing of data from the ERP system.

“The entire system runs flawlessly,” Peter Langheim and Dominik Lüpker conclude at the end of the interview. “windream is an efficient and future-proof system, especially due to the high data security, its huge performance and its compatibility with other applications.”

Preview

Talking about 'future-proof': are there any plans for the future? "As a matter of fact, there are," Dominik Lüpker says. "We are considering using windream for managing our e-mails, too. Integrating a CRM system with a windream archive in the background is also worth thinking about." The aim of the mail integration would be to link not only documents, but also e-mails with their associated business processes.

"We want our systems to be always up to date," Dominik Lüpker requests and means that the successful cooperation with windream and their partner Scheffer & Hille will be continued. "We are looking forward to future projects!"



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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