



Reference project

Swiss IT service provider Bedag successfully introduces `_beta doc|z`

High-performance print output solution from Beta Systems replaces CA Spool

The company previously used the CA Spool solution as the central control point for managing output. It was used to centralize company-wide print and output management in the z/OS environment across locations and platforms. CA Spool was called by a COBOL program and sent the mainframe print data on to Canon's PRISMAproduction Server workflow and output management system via JES3. This was a powerful system, but one that was characterized by high costs and, most recently, a lack of German-language support.

Proven development know-how on the mainframe

The goal was to make data center operations even more efficient and save costs. Management at Bedag was seeking an alternative mainframe output management solution with the twin goals of making their data center even more efficient and to save costs. They found what they were looking for with Beta Systems, the European specialist for data center software, and its `_beta doc|z` software.

"As a data center operator, we are dependent on someone who knows mainframe systems well and has proven development expertise here," reports Martin Vögeli, System Management z/OS, at Bedag. "Beta Systems is one

of the few players that come into question for this." Bedag quickly discarded initial considerations of using an in-house development to save costs. While the only competitor was 'no change', Beta Systems had to undergo a detailed proof of concept before the project could begin.

The output management and archiving system `_beta doc|z` is designed for high access numbers by many users or parallel search queries with fast response times.

"We now have a fully functional output management solution that is also very attractively priced compared to the previous CA Spool."

*Andreas Meyer,
Senior Manager Platform Management*

About Bedag Informatik

Bedag is a leading Swiss IT services company with annual sales of CHF 86 million and around 380 employees. It was founded in 1990 and is owned by the Canton of Bern. Its core business is the development, maintenance and operation of business-critical IT solutions.

Bedag has a strong regional presence via a network of highly secure data centers and locations in Bern, Aarau, Delémont and Wettingen. Its customers are mainly public administrations and businesses as well as companies in the healthcare and insurance sectors.

The solution includes functions for archiving that facilitate the scope with compliance requirements. For example, key date archiving allows the calculation of the archive retention time with a precisely defined start date. The software collects the documents generated on the different platforms, splits or recombines them and then distributes them. _beta doc|z runs on z/OS, but also supports other operating systems.

Output must be dynamically controlled

CICS (Customer Information Control System) is a transaction monitor from IBM for implementing OLTP applications. CICS commands are often used in conjunction with COBOL. The CICS interface allows programs running in IBM's Multiple Virtual Storage (MVS) operating system to call other programs in a CICS environment.

At Bedag, there was the particular challenge of being able to control output dynamically based on different Sysout classes. For this, the _beta doc|z CICS interface had to be linked into the COBOL programs used at Bedag. Due to the many links in the system, this was technically very demanding. Additionally, in this situation, it also had to be done quickly due to time-critical specifications.

Very good cost, benefit and support ratio

In the solution for Bedag, two _beta doc|z instances were set up. They can now be used to print and layout payrolls, court documents and other documents 1:1 as they are generated by the mainframe. All lists and documents are created from the CICS environment and transferred to _beta doc|z - a high-performance output printing solution that also features user-friendly interfaces. For Bedag's customers, for example tax offices and other public institutions, this makes operation particularly easy. They receive pay slips, late payment letters, etc. in exactly the output format they need.

"We are really very satisfied with the implementation," says Andreas Meyer, Senior Manager Platform Management. We now have a fully functional output

Advantages of _beta doc|z compared to CA Spool

- ✓ The relational database used in Beta Systems products makes it possible to implement even complex relationships with comparably little effort, whereas in CA Spool up to several thousand rules or definitions may be required for this same functionality.
- ✓ _beta doc|z uses relational databases and can accurately map complex relationships between recipients and reports: e.g. which report lands on which device thereby offering a wealth of information compared to solutions without the use of relational databases.
- ✓ In contrast to other vendors Beta Systems offers a comparable range of functions with _beta doc|z both on the mainframe and outside the mainframe meaning that the knowledge on one platform can be transferred for operational efficiency for staff.
- ✓ _beta doc|z is an integrated solution that combines print management, document archiving and document delivery across the enterprise in one product whereas other vendors often need a whole set of products which are sometimes not integrated.

solution that is also very attractively priced compared to the previous CA Spool. Costs, benefits and support are really in a very good ratio here." As a future next step, the IT service provider plans to make files available for file transfer from the output management system to external service providers.

© Beta Systems DCI Software AG, 2021. All rights reserved.

Please contact us!

Beta Systems DCI Software AG

Alt-Moabit 90d

10559 Berlin

Phone: +49 (0) 30 726 118-640

118-800insidesales-dci@betasystems.com

_betasystems

www.betasystems-dci.com