

[competence]

REFERENCE PROJECT

FESTO AG & CO. KG

[what]

Migrating Centralized Data Processing to Unix

Up until May 2002, output management at Festo AG & Co. KG, a German-based manufacturing leader with global operations, was done with Beta 93 on the corporate mainframe. For years, this host system had a track record of providing top performance and reliability. However, due to Festo's corporate IT consolidation goal, the need arose to migrate from the mainframe to Unix. A Unix-based output management system (OMS) had to meet certain key requirements: accept the lists archived in Beta 93 (with a storage volume of approx. 10 GB and an archival period of up to 12 years) and securely manage newly generated lists, coming primarily from SAP R/3.

FESTO

Output Management for SAP R/3

Beta Systems was able to meet these requirements with its Beta 93 UX. This product offers the same basic features under Unix as Festo's previously host-based Beta 93 output management system, thus resolving a major issue for Festo, intent on realizing a more or less standardized SAP R/3-based application environment.

Today, Festo deploys SAP R/3 under Unix for Accounting, Financial Controlling, Materials Management, Production Planning, Production Control and Human Resources applications in its corporate data center. Beta 93 UX securely distributes, processes and archives the volumes of lists and reports generated in these application areas.

Festo – Successful Around the World in Industrial Automation with Pneumatics

Festo AG & Co. KG is a global leader in industrial automation with pneumatic systems. Festo's worldwide headquarters in Esslingen, Germany, is the home of its administration, development, and manufacturing departments and the corporate data center. The Festo Corporation consists of 52 independent companies, providing a service network in 176 countries. With a staff of approximately 10,000 around the globe, Festo reported revenues of 1.2 billion euros in 2001, generated with its comprehensive product offering of more than 18,000 pneumatic components such as pneumatic drives, controls, valves and individual valves.

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Joint Pilot Installation Between Beta Systems and Festo

In a joint pilot installation, Beta Systems, Festo and consulting company Atics realized the necessary Unix solution in a short period of time. Migration from MVS to Unix was completed in only three months.

New Unix-Based Solution Preserves Established Procedures

In light of migration from MVS to Unix, one of Festo's goals was to keep the impact on established procedures to a minimum, with data integrity and data security being of utmost importance. With an architecture similar to that of the Beta 93 mainframe product, Beta 93 UX is able to meet all these requirements.

Pinpoint Distribution of 33,000 Lists

Corporations this size generate reams and reams of documents as well as extensive lists. Deployed since 1989 on Festo's mainframe, the host-based Beta 93 output management system (OMS) separated, bundled and distributed 33,000 lists according to the individual user's specifications. After being generated, they were sorted by recipient and delivered online to the various workstations. This tall order is now being successfully met by Beta Systems' new Beta 93 UX, running at Festo on Redhat 7.2 with a 2.4.10 kernel.

Output Management for SAP R/3

SAP R/3 provides basic output management functionality. For more sophisticated requirements, R/3 offers its XOM interface to connect to a professional OMS. In light of the high volume of output generated by SAP R/3, a high-performance OMS is in fact necessary, because R/3's database is neither suited to manage this kind of output volume nor is it able to sufficiently model archival deadlines. What's more, implementing location-oriented list distribution in SAP R/3 requires much more effort and is more expensive. With its Beta 93 UX solution, Beta Systems provides a certified packaged solution for comprehensive SAP output.

[gain]

Beta 93 UX Enhances Output Management

In light of the high quality of information provided by Beta 93 UX and extremely high user buy-in, Festo is planning to manage additional SAP R/3 lists with Beta 93 UX. This also applies to lists that the MVS system had not been able to handle, which will now free up the hitherto overloaded SAP R/3 spools as well as other important system resources.

System Switch – Without a Hitch

The first lists were already being read from Beta 93 into Beta 93 UX less than one hour. The migration process was also taken advantage of to inspect output and phase out any lists that were no longer relevant. This let Festo reduce output by more than 10,000 lists, with the remaining 23,000 being read into the system in 4 hours.

Users Applaud Migration

The response of Festos' users is unanimous: by keeping basic and familiar mainframe procedures and applying enhanced state-of-the-art presentation technology such as GUI display, the new system is deemed to be a major improvement to day-to-day processing. And because virtually every employee is intuitively familiar with the new system, Festo was able to phase in further seats to the new system in no time. As an added benefit, Festo was even able to drastically free up system resources in its subsequent system consolidation.

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