

# [competence]

REFERENCE PROJECT

RWE Systems Computing

Transfer of lists from long-term archival  
into the Beta 93 UX output management system

Introduction of the  
Beta Web Enabler graphical user interface

[what]

## The initial situation

RWE has been using the z/OS-based Beta 93 output management system for many years to manage lists with accounting information and store them over long periods of time (6 and 10 years). The company's strategic decision to employ Unix and SAP software products made it necessary to implement an AIX-based solution for the lists in long-term storage.

## Automated migration of 803,000 lists

As the new system had to take over more than 4.5 million archived RWE lists amounting to a storage volume of 3.4 terabytes, RWE Systems Computing GmbH searched the software market for a solution able to handle large data volumes while also offering a solid set of functions.

Due to the special performance needs, the company chose the Unix-based Beta 93 UX output management system. In the medium term, this solution will also be made available to external partners.

[who]



The core business of the RWE Group focuses on the generation and provision of power and water. Current markets include Germany, Great Britain, Central and Eastern Europe as well as the water segment in the USA. In these markets, RWE is a leading player in at least one of the core business areas.

Within the RWE Group, RWE Systems is specialized in providing supporting services that any large company needs, but which do not touch on the core business. As a general contractor, RWE Systems creates – after thorough analysis – customized solutions that introduce optimized workflows into the clients' business landscape. The range of expertise includes corporate purchasing, accounts payable calculation, IT, real estate, infrastructure services, staff services, auditing, and data protection. The company currently has a staff of approximately 3,000 employees working at more than 70 locations.

## [how]



## Joint concept and preparation

After preliminary conceptual talks, a test installation including a test migration was carried out. With both tests yielding highly successful results, the installation of the Beta 93 UX system was launched immediately. At the same time, the Beta 93 administrator of RWE Systems carried out the necessary preparation within 15 workdays: This included determining the specialist areas, administrations, and form lists as well as implementing distribution and print control in the source and target system. This task also provided an opportunity to analyze and sort out numerous superfluous print characteristics and print controls.

## Migration carried out within 6 months

The migration software provided by Beta Systems supports automatic list migration. This is done by reloading the lists and forwarding them to the Beta 93 UX. After successful transmission, the lists are deleted from the online spool to make room for new lists.

Using this process, it was possible to migrate 803,000 accounting lists of RWE branches from Beta 93 to Beta 93 UX in a largely automated fashion. The task of migrating 630 GB worth of data took place 20 hours a day, seven days a week and was completed within only six months.

As a next step, the lists and end user authorizations were deleted from the z/OS systems within two months. This task was performed by the Beta 93 administrator of RWE Systems.

The entire project including test phase, preparation and post processing was carried out in 11 months by a small staff.

## Introducing the graphical Web-based user interface

The migration project also involved introducing the Beta Web Enabler, which allows users in the specialist departments to call up and edit the lists from their PC workplace.

The features and look & feel of the graphical interface were designed and implemented by Beta Systems according to the specifications of RWE. After installing the system and adding the required security profiles, it was handed over to a group of users for testing.

The users were able to familiarize themselves with the system in a very short time, and they also praised the system because it allowed them to apply the previous workflow in electronic form and to leverage their knowledge gained with Beta 93.

## Comfortable output management based on Unix

Beta 93 UX enables comfortable output management of large data volumes using server platforms based on Unix and Linux. The key tasks are list distribution, print management and print archival of the Unix system output (e.g. SAP R/3, SAP/HR, ISU, ...). As a result, the system enables the processing of Unix-type print data streams, thus supporting classic output management functions such as separating and distributing documents.

Also, this page-based separation and distribution of text, AFPDS, PCL, and postscript documents makes it possible to deliver excerpts of large data lists directly to central and remote printers, postal automation systems, fax servers, and email systems.

In the event of a printer problem, printing can be resumed right where the interruption occurred – just as with the z/OS-based Beta 93 – without the need to generate the data anew in the application.

## Web-based document access

Beta Web Enabler is a module of the Output Management Suite, that provides fast and flexible access to documents within Beta 93, Beta 93 UX, and Beta 99. RWE is using this module to enable simple, company-wide access to the documents now managed in Beta 93 UX. All it takes for end users to be able to access data are a Web browser and access privilege. Users can select, view, and annotate lists and print local copies. Also, as only the selected pages are transferred, the solution minimizes network traffic and response times.

## Quick Familiarization

Beta 93 UX and Beta Web Enabler are very similar to the previously used Beta 93 in terms of logic and design, allowing both the administrator and the users to start working with the new systems and the new graphical user interface within a very short time. As a result, the Beta 93 UX administrator was able to cover this training task himself.

[gain]

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[experience]