IBM

DB2 Information Management Software

Allianz life insurance division manages business growth with IBM information management tools.

Overview

- **Challenge**
  Support business expansion through cost-effective management of rapidly growing database
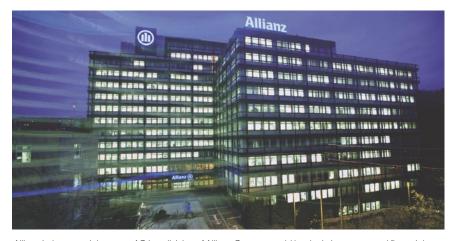
- **Why IBM?**
  IBM tools had the needed features for efficient information management. The tools can be quickly adapted to new developments, creating an optimum situation for implementing on demand strategies and autonomic computing. IBM also offered flexible pricing to fit Allianz's budget.

- **Solution**
  Integrated set of IBM information management tools

- **Key Benefits**
  Significantly lower total cost of ownership; improved support due to single vendor for the full range of tools and database

Allianz Lebensversicherungs-AG is a division of Allianz Group, a world leader in insurance and financial services serving over 60 million customers in more than 70 countries.

Germany's demographics are changing. A declining birth rate and steady rise in the number of pensioners are pushing the system to its limits. These trends are driving the growth of personal retirement plans, both private and corporate. Allianz Lebensversicheruns-AG, a division of Allianz Group, is well-positioned to service this need, offering a full range of pension funds, coverage of employer's pension commitments, support funds and direct insurance. In 2003, new business increased by 25.9% to over €3.499 billion (US$4.40 billion), making Allianz the number one company in life insurance in Germany. Allianz has clear prospects for future growth as the trend towards more funded private pensions is projected to increase even faster in the next few years.

"Since we now receive the database system and tools all from the one vendor, we expect smooth and rapid support for new DB2 versions. This increases our reliability, efficiency and ability to act!"

—Reinhard Lenk, Department Manager, Allianz Lebensversicherungs-AG

Key Components

Software

- IBM DB2® Universal Database™ for z/OS®
- IBM DB2 Administration Tool for z/OS
- IBM DB2 Object Comparison Tool for z/OS
- IBM DB2 Log Analysis Tool for z/OS
- IBM DB2 Utilities Suite for z/OS

A growing insurance business creates more and more information to be managed. As its business volume soared, Allianz's IT group saw a need for greater efficiency in managing its IBM DB2 databases. Allianz decided to invest in more efficient DB2 tools to reduce administration costs and support new functionalities while providing a lower total cost of ownership (TCO).

A careful evaluation

The first step the IT decision-makers at Allianz took was to analyze the available DB2 tools from IBM and other vendors. The evaluation focused on functionality of the individual tools as well as considering how the tools would integrate into the internal Allianz workflow to ensure problem-free and efficient use in production. They evaluated the available DB2 tools based on:

- *Migration time and effort*
- *Required training*
- *Ease of use*
- *Batch processing abilities*
- *Effect on online business*
- *Ease and efficiency of integration*
- *Compliance with auditing requirements*
- *Use of logs to recover lost data*

After a thorough evaluation process, the insurance company's IT specialists selected four tools that best met their requirements: IBM DB2 Administration Tool, IBM DB2 Object Comparison Tool, IBM DB2 Log Analysis Tool and IBM DB2 Utilities Suite. They selected these tools based on functionality and also because they trusted the core competency of IBM, the maker of the DB2 database. Before making the final commitment, Allianz decided to conduct a test installation of the IBM products. The test verified Allianz's decision and also defined additional functions to be developed for DB2 Administration Tool and DB2 Object Comparison Tool which were of general interest and use within Allianz.

Smooth, swift implementation

Allianz targeted March 2002 for starting the implementation of the DB2 information management tools. In conjunction with IBM, Allianz launched a project which comprised the complete implementation of the solution from procurement, installation, testing and training through to live operation. Replacing the products from other manufacturers with DB2 Utilities Suites and DB2 Log Analysis Tool was planned for December 31, 2002 and was completed on schedule. Mid-2003 was the deadline set for providing the full functionality in the area of catalog management and structural changes. The tools were integrated into the internal Allianz processes by the end of August 2003.

During the implementation, Allianz's end users experienced few changes. They continued to work with the interfaces they were already familiar with, but with IBM tools running in the background instead. In the months remaining to production kickoff, the Allianz database administrators were trained by IBM in using the new applications. Allianz itself was responsible for training the application developers. The project reached its conclusion on January 1, 2004, when the tools went into production. "With help from IBM consultants, we were able to deploy the IBM DB2 information management tools in the projected time frame," says Reinhard Lenk, Department Manager at Allianz Lebensversicherungs-AG. "You can count on staying on schedule when you work with IBM."

Seeing results on the bottom line

Apart from a smooth project cycle, the new solution now in place has since demonstrated that the migration was worth it for Allianz. IBM has offered to configure the tools, if necessary, to support additional functionalities of new DB2 versions. As the tools are also specially geared towards autonomic computing, they will also be able to help control future business processes. With this on demand strategy from IBM, Allianz's investment in their IT system is protected in the long term. Furthermore, variable operating costs can be arranged and better adapted to Allianz's actual needs. This has already resulted in a significantly lower total cost of ownership (TCO) after just a few months.

Allianz provides a full range of pension funds and health insurance plans with the help of IBM information management tools.

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– Reinhard Lenk

Allianz also experiences better support thanks to having a single contact for both DB2 and the DB2 Tools – IBM. IBM's extensive knowledge of the complete system makes possible rapid and efficient support which would be difficult to accomplish if support were split between a number of providers. According to Lenk, "Since we now receive the database system and tools all from the one vendor, we expect smooth and rapid support for new DB2 versions. This increases our reliability, efficiency and ability to act!"

Positioned for the future

Allianz Lebensversicherungs-AG is now well prepared for the future in the area of DB2 administration. Since the new tools have proven their worth, other companies within the Allianz Group plan to introduce the IBM information management tools into their environments.

For more information

Please contact your IBM sales representative, or IBM Direct at: 1 800 IBM-CALL.

Visit our Web site at:
ibm.com/software/data/db2imstools

For more information about Allianz, visit: *www.allianz.com*