

GERMAN ARMED FORCES



THE GERMAN ARMED FORCES HAS CREATED A UNIFIED REPORTING PLATFORM THAT PROVIDES FAST, ACCURATE ANSWERS WITH THE CLICK OF A MOUSE.

LOGABW JOINS FORCES WITH COGNOS FOR BETTER REPORTING

The mission of the Bundeswehr Logistics Office (Logistikamt der Bundeswehr or LogABw) is to act as the cataloguing authority for the German armed forces and for individual administrative sectors of the federal government and the German states. As such, the office supports German manufacturers and allied states with information on individual equipment items.

Recently, LogABw assumed responsibility for material used throughout the armed forces. This led to the creation of an Equipment and Utilization Directorate which is responsible for regulating the introduction of weapon systems and electronic data processing (EDP) projects within the armed forces. With the increased responsibility, LogABw now directs over 110 EDP projects.

The organization realized that systems integration was the key to effective control, and Cognos was the key to more effective reporting and analysis.

CHALLENGES FACED

In the past, LogABw could not link data from their various sources for reporting, resulting in inaccuracies or IT intervention. LogABw needed to find the right platform to support its diverse data environments, but also one that would be effective for their impending migration to SAP R/3.

In terms of reporting and analysis, users could access the HOST system to perform these tasks, but had to

endure lengthy waiting times for reports. Another challenge included finding a solution that would easily allow more users to access reporting and information via the organization's Intranet.

STRATEGY FOLLOWED

The first mandate of the systems integration (SysInt) platform was the unification of data assets. SysInt is unique among EDP projects because it generates no data of its own. It channels data from logistics processes into a single database and presents it to the user in a uniform format. Three servers are used in Germany: a database server, a communications server, and a data warehouse server. At the outset, SysInt service is stocked with the essential basic data from the database. Its data warehouse is comprised of analysis, reporting, and metadata modeling software from Cognos.

LogABw decided on Cognos software due to its user friendliness, its full functionality, its Internet capabilities, and its simple administration. An additional key factor included is its flexibility for use in various system environments, including the existing HOST system, SAP R/3, and others.

A further and more important consideration is that Cognos software is zero-footprint, meaning that no client software components had to be installed. Zero-footprint means applications can be accessed using a standard browser. This critical factor means that logistics operability is guaranteed on foreign deployments.

BENEFITS REALIZED

SysInt makes updated and comprehensive assessments possible. Users are no longer bound to the HOST system, and long waiting times are a thing of the past. SysInt is user-friendly and available via the Web browser on the Bundeswehr Intranet. Users require no programming skills and training takes one or two days at the most.

The current system offers users about 200 standard queries. It gives them the ability to create ad hoc reports and evaluate the data cubes interactively. These data cubes, created in Cognos PowerPlay, are the real value add of the system, as they offer flexible and high-speed analytical capabilities.

Due to its ease-of-use, the user group for the system is continually expanding. Its utility is now recognized in other areas and there is more and more interest in expanding it further. Thought is now being given to incorporating logistics data from selected Air Force and Navy EDP procedures. This would provide the

Armed Forces Support Command and the Armed Forces Logistics Center with a comprehensive database for the first time ever. In doing so, it would make comprehensive evaluations, analyses, and resource requirement forecasting a reality.

For the German Armed Forces, protecting people is their mission, and leveraging their data is a big part of this mandate. With Cognos, LogABw has transformed its database into one that helps more people within the organization receive fast, accurate answers so they can get back to the business at hand.

WHY COGNOS?

Only Cognos delivers a complete range of integrated, scalable software for corporate performance management. Cognos products let organizations drive performance with enterprise planning and budgeting, monitor it with scorecarding, and understand it with business intelligence reporting and analysis. Founded in 1969, Cognos now serves more than 23,000 customers in over 135 countries.



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