

Volkswagen IT divisions accelerate process improvement with IBM Rational Synergy and IBM Rational Change solutions.

Overview

■ Challenge

Volkswagen is one of the world's leading automobile manufacturers and the largest in Europe. The company's IT divisions required an enterprise-wide standard for change and configuration management in order to gain greater control over developers and projects, as well as to demonstrate compliance with legal requirements.

■ Solution

The company selected IBM Rational Synergy and IBM Rational Change solutions to streamline its change and configuration management process and improve the quality of development.

■ Key Benefits

Today, Volkswagen IT divisions use Rational Synergy and Change solutions for many IT projects and report significant process improvements and greater control. The implementation was so successful that the solutions are now being used on other automotive electronics development projects at three sites in Germany. Volkswagen continues its investment in IBM tools with the implementation of an IBM Rational DOORS server.



The story

Located in Wolfsburg, Germany, Volkswagen IT divisions lacked an enterprise-wide standard for change and configuration management. The group had little control over developers or projects. Versions were not reproducible, and the details of each build were not sufficiently documented. This made it difficult for Volkswagen IT divisions to demonstrate compliance with legal requirements, which is necessary to bring projects to completion on deadline.

Rational Synergy and Change solutions: driving home value for process improvement

To gain greater control over developers and projects, Volkswagen IT divisions began to evaluate change and configuration management solutions. The group chose IBM Rational® Synergy and Change solutions over competitors.

IBM installed Synergy and Change solutions on a central server at the Wolfsburg headquarters. The technology is deployed in Volkswagen's IT organization with a standard implementation of the Rational Synergy solution. Volkswagen IT divisions customized the Rational Change solution to accommodate specific requirements.

The Rational Synergy and Change software combination proved to be a great success for Volkswagen IT divisions. So much so, that after 18 months of pilot projects, Volkswagen implemented it at three locations responsible for automotive electronics development: Wolfsburg, Ingolstadt and Brunswick, where electronic control units for rear axles are developed. IBM Rational professional services coordinated with VW Coaching, a daughter company of Volkswagen, to provide developer and build manager training.

Today, more than 1500 developers use Synergy and Change solutions on large, complex projects at three locations. Volkswagen expects the number of users to increase to 3000.

The benefits

The Rational platform is now a critical solution that drives change and configuration management for the Volkswagen Systementwicklungsprozess (system engineering process).

“All of our key business challenges are addressed and met with Synergy,” said Michael Steder, responsible for change and configuration management at Volkswagen. “Having Synergy with proper workflow and processes in place has significantly improved the quality of development at Volkswagen.”

Volkswagen continues to invest in IBM tools to achieve a requirements-driven development environment. According to Steder, Volkswagen is adding a central Rational DOORS® server to satisfy an urgent need for requirements management and traceability in the electronics development department.

“DOORS software is the number one solution recommended by Hersteller Initiative Software, a prestigious group consisting of Audi, BMW, DaimlerChrysler, Porsche and Volkswagen, to fulfill the need for a requirements management standard and common platform in which to share requirements data among manufacturers and suppliers.”

For more information

To learn more about IBM Rational Synergy and IBM Rational Change solutions, contact your IBM representative or IBM Business Partner, or visit:

ibm.com/software/rational



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