

IBM Software for System z –customer reference

Speaker:

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GAD is, first of all, an IT service provider for banks. We have an emphasis on developing application software for our banks. We run a production center, a DP Department, and we are the second biggest banking group in Germany.

Bank21 is our new core banking application, which is based on the Component Business Model on the Service Oriented Architecture.. We need a lot of flexibility and we need the possibility to add new features in a flexible way. GAD is continuously looking for concepts, for tools and more and more solutions from the market to provide to our banks a state of the art solution.

When we had a look at solutions of the market, it was very quickly clear that WebSphere would be the right platform for our new application. Now the question was which platform would be the appropriate one for WebSphere. We found out that WebSphere has really become the same on the different platforms. So we took some comparisons - on the one hand benchmarking and on the other one TCO; and this benchmarking process was one of the largest and most profound activities GAD ever undertook.

At GAD internally there was a discussion whether the clock speed or the gigahertz would be very crucial speed limitation on the different platforms. During the benchmarking, we found out that the gigahertz view (can't rearrange this because of inflection –db) only is a very short view. We found out that the performance is more than comparable. And it became quite clear that having the WebSphere application and the data on the same platform would have a significant advantage. It was able to provide Bank21 solution very quickly to the market. We found out that taking into consideration all the investments we had in the z infrastructure, the TCO on zSeries is the best one for GAD.

Bank21 gives new features to our customers, and so you add features and you add complexity for the total system. On the DP center side we try to simplify and this is very much possible with WebSphere on z/OS. We have only six z9 machines which gives us a good quality of service, a very good performance and availability for our customers. You have a much better possibility to deliver a good quality of service if you have only six machines in the comparison with several hundreds.

WebSphere Extended Deployment has a list of very interesting features. GAD is interested in the batch container which is very important for our banking application. And the Application Addition Manager is as well very important because there we will have interruption free deployment features which will give us the possibility to add solutions on the working process.

With WebSphere we are very well prepared for the future. Based on the Service Oriented Architecture, we have a very flexible basis to meet our customer's needs. And the infrastructure combined with WebSphere on z is a very cost efficient basis to give best value to our customers