

ACTIONS AND E-DOSSIER SYSTEM: HIGHER EFFICIENCY AND IMPROVED CUSTOMER SERVICE

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Basler Versicherungen started its comprehensive reorganisation with the GEPARD project. The Customer Service Centre is expected to process over 80% of all customer enquiries until completion of the project, while maintaining significantly shorter turnaround times in the future. The company's new approach is based on the Actions and Dossier System (ADOS) implemented by the IT and industry experts of Munich-based Macros Reply GmbH.

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CHALLENGES

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SOLUTION

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PROJECT SUCCESS

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BASLER VERSICHERUNGEN (INSURANCE)

A combination of insurance and bank, Basler Versicherungen and Baloise Bank SoBa work together as focussed financial service providers. They are leading providers of integrated insurance, pension schemes and asset building services to private customers and SMEs in Switzerland. Basler Versicherungen also positions itself as an insurer offering intelligent prevention under the "Safety World" brand. Basler currently has 3,100 employees. Basler Versicherungen and Baloise Bank SoBa are part of the Baloise Group based in Basel. Baloise Group share are quoted in the main segment on the SIX Swiss Stock Exchange. The Baloise Group has around 9,400 employees.

Claudius Baader, Senior Consultant and Member of IT Management at Basler Versicherungen recalls: "It did not take long for us to realise that this new organisation and its processes required state-of-the-art and efficient IT systems. Although we had been using a digital archive based on Filenet, the Central Customer Service Centre

with its new electronic workflows now required the digitalisation of all incoming mail (i.e. scanning and recognition) before processing, intelligent allocation to the respective consultants via an electronic in-box, as well as the transparent tracking of various processing workflows. We definitely wanted more than classic document management systems can provide, and we wanted a reliable partner with insurance expertise”.

IT-PARTNER WITH INSURANCE EXPERTISE

The team under Claudius Baader carried out a market evaluation: “I strongly recommend colleagues that are planning similar initiatives to visit the reference customers personally with the IT providers. Only very few providers can demonstrate real insurance competence using concrete customer examples. Our list of potential partners shrank rapidly as a result of this requirement.”

Only two providers were shortlisted by Basler Versicherungen. The final choice fell on the Munich-based Macros Reply GmbH. Bruno Rohner Operational Excellence Manager and responsible for the project, comments on the selection process: “Many factors played a crucial role. Our experiences at the reference customers already indicated that the in-box /activities overview system of Macros Reply not only manages documents, but can also track each step taken by the dossiers from one desk to another and through various process steps. The flexibility of the system enabled assignment of electronic mailboxes to clerks or processing teams, as well as subsequent workflows, via a configurable framework. Therefore, even sector-specific processes can be established or changed as required.” The customer focus of the Macros Reply system is reflected in its very name: Actions and Dossier System (ADOS).

The various options in the authorisation system played an important role in the decision process. While the archiving system of Basler Versicherungen manages at the document level, the Macros Reply comprises interfaces allowing use of archives while allocating authorisations to access the dossiers and process levels. Thus access authorisations for the various processing requirements can be flexible; access to highly sensitive document such as doctor’s reports, still remains reserved to persons with special authority.

NOT ALWAYS A SIMPLE MATTER: TIGHT DEADLINES REQUIRING MANAGEMENT INPUT

Many Change Management and IT projects fail because they are not sufficiently backed up by management. This is something Claudius Baader and the project team of Macros Reply cannot complain about: “The ADOS IT project was a critical element of the strategic GEPARD project and the planned reorganisation. For this reason, our

project team was led by the Executive Board. This support was absolutely necessary to adhere to the tight time schedule set for the project.

Team Manager Gerhard Hoffmann of Macros Reply describes the challenge for the project team as follows: "The work processes to be illustrated in the Proof-of-Concept in terms of software, had just been designed. If you work in insurance, you know that claims settlements require the most complex and comprehensive insurance processes. Right from the start, the entire team – our own employees and the organisation development team from Basler Versicherungen – established a very open and trusting working relationship.

This enabled us to implement work processes and software in parallel - a somewhat unusual approach taken due to time constraints, yet very successful in this particular case". A definite advantage in this respect was that the Macros Reply system already included proven and tested interfaces to the digitalisation and classification software Smartfix, as well as to the Filenet archive.

AFTER ONLY SEVEN MONTHS: PILOT IN THE CLAIMS SETTLEMENT DEPARTMENT GOES LIVE

The timely achievement of the significant project milestones, Proof-of-Concept and pilot operation for the settlement of claims, deepened the trust in the partnership between Basler Versicherungen and the IT partner. "I was very sceptical, especially in view of the tight timeline. But as the prototype already managed well over 80% of the required functionality, I realised that ADOS was definitely on the way to success", comments Claudius Baader, recalling the labour-intensive time. "In spite of this, we managed to keep the team small and efficient. On average, about 2.5 IT specialists from Macros Reply were working on site, and they were at times supported by three members of the Corporate Development (OPEX) staff. The changeover to the Customer Service Centre was performed successfully.

EFFICIENT TRANSITION TO STANDARD OPERATING PROCESSES

Another indicator of the project's success is the fact that ADOS users are currently already fully supported via the in-house helpdesk. Only the Change Requests are forwarded to Macros Reply via the ticket system for further processing.

To ensure a high level of acceptance, the company relied on the involvement of so-called "Power Users" and proven "Train-the-Trainer" concepts at a very early stage. Thus the project team did not only receive early and direct feedback, but users were

also able to support each other when learning.

User requests could be taken into account in many areas. For example, ADOS workstations are now generally equipped with two large monitors. An additional monitor provides a better overview, in particular when, in addition to the mailbox, individual documents from the dossier are open and further applications, such as the claims and partner system, are running.

“Unfamiliar, paperless processes, new tasks and in many cases, even moves to new locations – at the beginning, we feared that the users might blame the software for all the stress arising from the reorganisation, but this only happened in a few isolated cases. It did not take long for our employees to realise that ADOS really supports them and makes their work easier. This was naturally reinforced by the positive feedback of customers who noticed that their requests were processed much faster and earlier or obtained concrete and fast answers to their queries already after the first call without being forwarded to another department several times”, says Bruno Rohner in retrospect. An increased customer satisfaction is also apparent in the systematic surveys conducted by Basler Versicherungen.



Macros Reply uses innovative software to make corporate processes more efficient: The employees of Macros Reply have high degree of technical competence as well as industry and process-specific knowledge, which is reflected in every product. This is also the company's most important unique selling point. In conjunction with the configured standard products and expansion modules, Macros Reply offers its customers the exact solution reflecting individual business processes. Instead of wasting time with the search, distribution or the processing of information, Macros Reply helps in-box and e-dossier customers process their work, from the in-box to the outbox, or research and coordinate their information across the organization with the DMS intranet – and always purely browser based. After all, Macros Reply, which was founded in Munich 1999 and has an office in Hamburg, is an internet pioneer.