

IT modernization without a risk

Northern Germany's biggest shopping center focuses on a model-based integration program to eliminate migration risks during the modernization of its heterogeneous, out-dated system landscape. Using E2E Bridge as a central platform, the foundation has also been laid for the replacement of 5 different ERP systems in favour of a standardization based on SAP-Retail.

Challenge

- Out-dated, extremely heterogeneous application landscape
- Inadequately documented point-to-point connections
- Missing standardization in ERP environment

Solution

- Implementation of a central integration platform
- Containment of existing systems and their data
- Step for step, controlled migration of individual functions

Benefits

- Graphical models as communication between business and IT
- No high risk big-bang modernization
- Full control of each individual migration step

“ *The modernization of our IT landscape in risk-free steps has been made possible by E2E Bridge.* ”

— Andreas Iken
CIO, dodenhof



About dodenhof

dodenhof is northern Germany's biggest Shopping-Centre which has alone at its Headquarters in Posthausen, near Bremen, a 120.000 m2 sales floor with numerous product lines. The products on offer range from household furnishings, fashion and home technology to sport and a world of luxury consumer goods. In Kaltenkirchen, near Hamburg, dodenhof has a 50.000 m2 household furnishing store and a fashion and sports goods store. dodenhof has 2.500 employees and, since its foundation in 1910, the company has been run continuously by the Dodenhof family, now in its fourth generation of management.

www.dodenhof.de

The 'dodenhof' logo in white text on a red rectangular background.

“ Thanks to E2E Bridge we can avoid a big-bang-modernization with an uncertain outcome. Old systems will be contained and, fully controlled, replaced with new functions.

– Andreas Iken
CIO, dodenhof

Challenge

During the last few years dodenhof has seen the growth of a difficult to maintain, and strongly heterogeneous, IT landscape which has significantly inhibited corporate flexibility, and particularly so in the development of their digital strategy. A company-wide integration platform did not exist. The existing till-system was linked with numerous point-to-point connections to a total of five different, business division specific, ERP systems. Interfaces were technically out-dated, inadequately documented and the functional dependencies of the system were known only to individual developers. It became absolutely essential to modernize the entire application landscape.

Solution

An opportunity to avoid a risky “big-bang” modernization process was available with E2E Bridge and its purely model-based, highly transparent integration approach. Through its unique capability to communicate via a common interface with old and new systems running in parallel, the facility to test the correct functioning of individual components with so-called double transactions became possible. This could be done before shutting down the old system in favor of a new one. This way, a step for step modernization was achievable with practically no risk.

For strategic reasons the modernization program was tackled with a part-project approach: as a first step the integration of the existing till-system (based on PORES software) with a total of five merchandise management systems was set up. (IWM from Cogito, Intelligix, Rendite from HIW, DCW from Steeb, the

customer data application from Teradata and SAP). Preparations for the integration of the new till-system software, and its implementation to run in parallel with the existing PORES/IBM solution, took place in the same step.

In a second step, the kitchen planning software CARAT was integrated into the dodenhof IT landscape using E2E Bridge as an integration platform. For the first time, via the use of a centralized integration layer, the duplication of integration tasks could be avoided.

The new till-system was also integrated via this centralized integration layer and has remained available since then in parallel operation for continuous testing.

With the successful execution of these critical early stages of the dodenhof IT-modernization program a solid basis has been created (in terms of both the tools and the methods) for the standardization, in controllable steps, of all merchandise management functions in SAP-Retail.

Benefits

- Avoidance of a „big-bang” modernization thanks to joint containment of old and new systems running in parallel
- Transparency and traceability in interface-management, amongst other things also by reverse engineering of existing interfaces
- Executable models make possible a single information source in which documentation and production remain identical

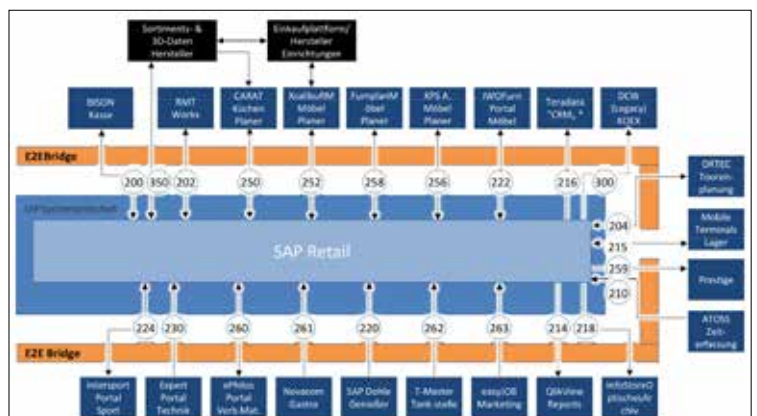
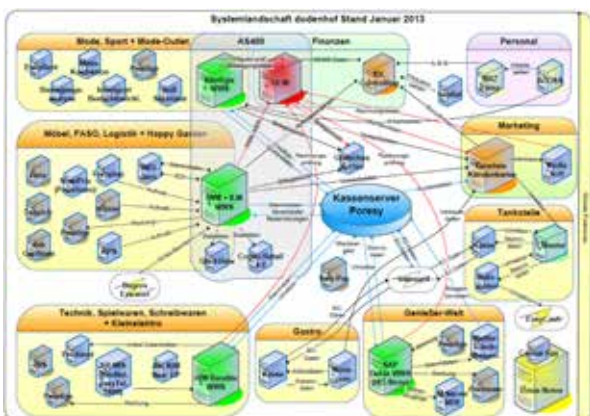


Fig.1: The E2E Bridge as central platform for system integration and modernisation: left before, right after.