



Insurance

Gerling Lebensversicherungs-AG

New product and inventory management system

Background

Gerling Lebensversicherungs-AG (GKL) has been insuring people against life's unwanted chance occurrences since 1922. In August 2002, the two life insurers belonging to the Gerling Group, Gerling Lebensversicherungs-AG and Gerling E&L Lebensversicherungs-AG, were merged to form a single unit. The new company trades under the name of Gerling Lebensversicherungs-AG, and now offers all tariffs for both private and business customers from a single source. In the field of company pension schemes and unit-linked life insurances, Gerling Life is one of the market leaders in Germany. The company offers security in old age and provision for dependants, risk coverage, safeguarding of people's livelihoods in the event of occupational disability, group insurances for company and professional old-age pension schemes, and financing models.

The Challenge

Against the background of changes on the market and technological innovations, Gerling is developing a new product and inventory management system anticipated to go live in 2005. The primary objective is the integrated control of all business processes. Non-integrated systems, which have so far been bridged manually, will make way for an integrated system. As a result, information to customers is meant to be better targeted and faster, while internal throughput times for commercial transactions are shortened. As well as that, Gerling is creating additional and more flexible system functions which enable the company to respond more quickly to market needs.



The Solution

Gerling is translating these requirements into reality by migrating its entire system: The mainframes are changing over completely to OS/390 and the IBM world in the medium term, with the old Siemens BS2000 machines being networked for use in the meantime. The mainframe architecture is being turned into a client/server system with thin clients running on Windows NT and XP, a Java front-end and Internet add-ons. Data management is dealt with in the traditional way with DB2 databases.

As this system will also cause the volume and complexity of the data and applications to rise, Gerling is simultaneously investing in quality assurance methods and tools. Working in collaboration with consultants and test specialists from SQS Software Quality Systems AG, the company focused on the following steps:

- Methodical support for the entire test process
- Transfer of methodical test know-how to Gerling employees
- Test automation through the establishment of an "automatic tester" with corresponding test tools
- Evaluation and selection of new test tools to be purchased
- Tool integration

The Benefits

- 50 per cent lower costs than for manual testing without methodical support
- 70 per cent time saving during test execution
- Relief of the workload on employees
- Employees are free to concentrate on new and creative tasks
- Security of investment thanks to the transparency of the tests
- Repeatability of the tests, providing the opportunity to make corrections quickly in the course of production
- Consistent quality of applications
- Consistently high level of coverage by the tests
- Possibility of prioritising the functions to be tested with a view to meeting the business goals

Contact

SQS Software Quality Systems AG, Deutschland

www.sqs.de, Telefon: +49 (0) 2203 91 54-0

SQS Software Quality Systems (Schweiz) AG, Schweiz

www.sqs-group.ch, Telefon: +41 (0) 43 210 93 00

SQS Software Quality Systems (Suisse) SA, Suisse

www.sqs-group.ch, Téléphone: +41 (0) 22 706 20 30

SQS Software Quality Systems Ges.mBH, Österreich

www.sqs.at, Telefon: +43 (0) 1 319 35 23-0

SQS Group Limited, United Kingdom

www.sqs-uk.com, phone: +44 (0) 20 7448 4620

SQS Software Quality Systems (Ireland) Ltd, Ireland

www.sqs-ire.com, phone: +353 (0) 1 670 9916

SQS South Africa, South Africa

www.sqs-sa.com, phone: +27 (0) 31 266 8466

SQS Nederland B.V., Nederland

www.sqs-group.nl, phone: +31 (0) 418 655 888

SQS Portugal Lda., Portugal

www.sqs.pt, phone: +351 (0) 21 4 22 90 90