

The HUGO BOSS Group

Outstanding products, professional logistics systems and an excellent product presentation have made HUGO BOSS the global market leader in the up-market clothing segment. HUGO BOSS intends to build on this position and further expand the market potential in the future.

HUGO BOSS has convinced customers all around the world of the brand strength. With fashions for the most varied target groups, for the most exacting demands and for every occasion, HUGO BOSS has been able to maintain market leadership throughout 2003. The brands are the key to the success.



HUGO BOSS creative teams continuously develop new collection themes and products aimed both at reflecting zeitgeist and satisfying a demand for innovation.

The new media – especially IT - are consistently used by the HUGO BOSS Group and their trading partners to increase flexibility, make processes more transparent, improve logistical operations and communicate as promptly and seamlessly as possible.

HUGO BOSS is headquartered in Metzingen, close to the city of Stuttgart. IBM mainframes operating the z/OS operating system are being used in the central IT department. Approximately 2000 end-users are connected to the online-system under CICS/TS 1.3. The production data is being kept in VSAM and mostly DB2 databases. UNIX systems (AIX) and WINDOWS XP-workstations complete the hardware platforms used in the Open System world.

The HUGO BOSS Group already started at an early stage with the integration of the mainframe into the "Open World". Raimund Kleebaur, team leader IT-systems: "We had developed a Client/Server application in Smalltalk that used a middleware product to connect with the mainframe. The purpose of the middleware product was to connect to and to start CICS-programs from our Smalltalk programs." The product was being called from the Smalltalk programs by an API interface. The necessary parameters were being passed to the mainframe using communication buffers.

Raimund Kleebaur: "On the mainframe finally a PL/I-module was being called that we had developed. This module took the buffer, evaluated them and called our CICS-programs. We have not been satisfied with this solution; the performance was not good and even more important the support provided by the vendor was not acceptable. Because the application was strategic to the company, we had to look for an alternative."

The first contact to tcACCESS was established during summer of 2001. A product presentation has been arranged at the premises of HUGO BOSS and a concept was being presented that was aimed to migrate the existing solution to tcACCESS with only a few changes. "It didn't take us a long time to understand the potential of tcACCESS. But before we installed the package on our mainframe and started the migration process we attended a tcACCESS road-show in Stuttgart" remembers Stefan Weiblen, team-leader IT Applications. "A systems engineer from B.O.S. came to visit us and analyzed the technical

necessities. Within 3 days we had replaced the mainframe part with tcACCESS in combination with a Stored Procedure." The Smalltalk application called the Stored procedure using the tcACCESS ODBC component. At the very beginning of the project HUGO BOSS encountered some problems. Stefan Weiblen: "The cooperation with B.O.S. really convinced us. The early problems with the ODBC connection have been resolved by B.O.S. in a timely and professional fashion. "

The Smalltalk-application still uses a communication buffer that is being passed to the tcACCESS Stored Procedure. Stefan Weiblen explains the processing: "Some of the processing includes the request for data, that will be provided by the CICS-programs in a temporary storage queue. The application uses a SELECT-statement to read the data from this queue. "

The application went into production during fall of 2003. Stefan Weiblen: "The application is our GMS-system. GMS means Global Manufacturing System and is our tool to plan our production processes, disposition and order processing. It is a Windows based application that is used by up to 200 end-users every day. We are extremely pleased with the tcACCESS solution. All of our goals have been met: We have been able to replace the old application and the performance of the communication to our backend has been increased by factor 3 compared to the previous application." tcACCESS is not only being used in the GMS-system, HUGO BOSS has Web-applications that communicate with mainframe applications using a tcACCESS server component.

The application development group also uses tcACCESS as a tool of their choice. The application developers use tcACCESS for testing purposes. They access the legacy VSAM files with SQL statements. tcACCESS has become an integral part of the day-to-day business of the application developers.

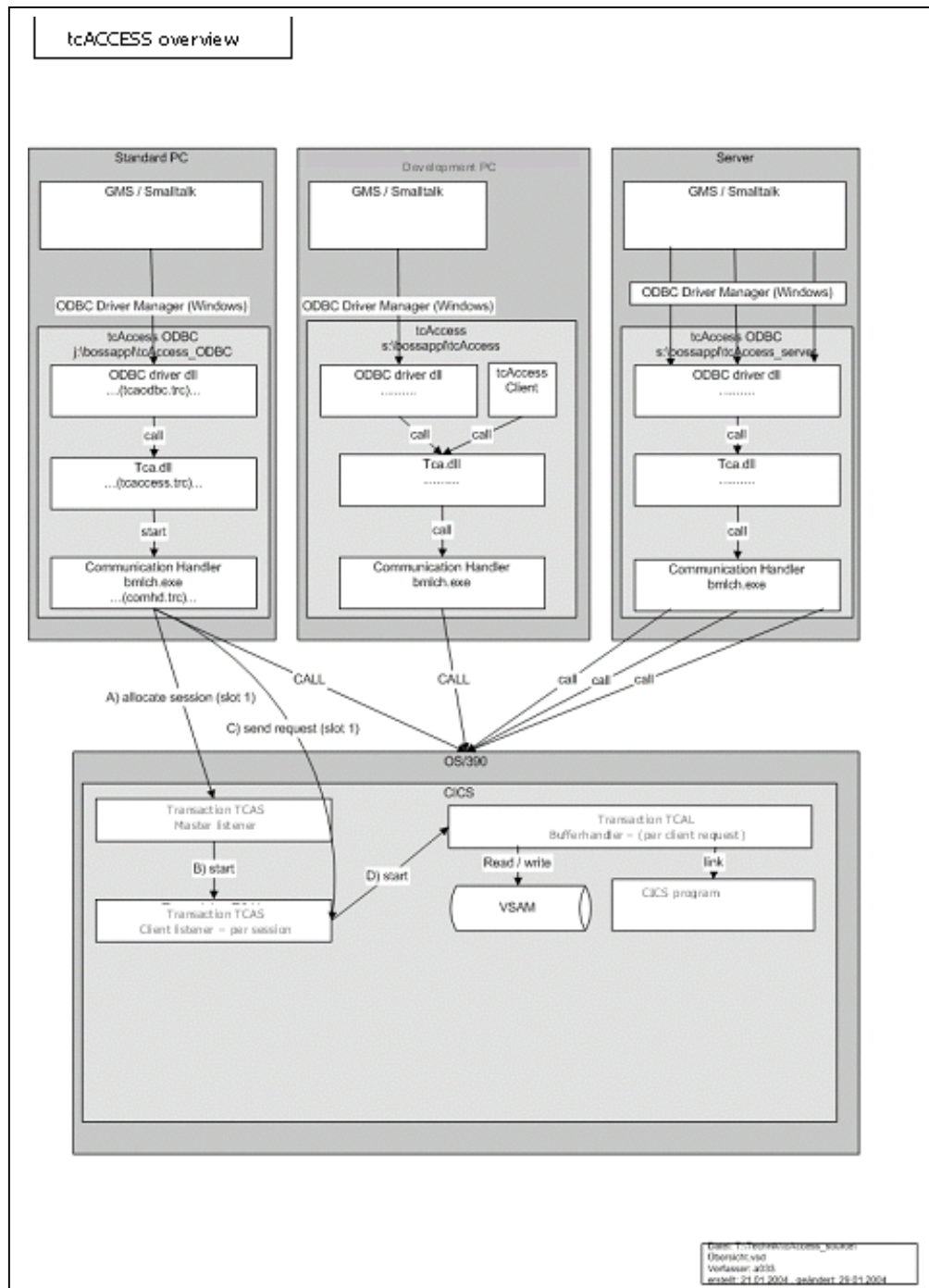
Raimund Kleebaur draws a conclusion: "tcACCESS is well established in our company. B.O.S. Software GmbH is a professional partner to us, they provide an excellent support and we are convinced that tcACCESS will be successfully used in other application areas of our company in the future."

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Application example HUGO BOSS



The figure gives an impression how the Smalltalk application "GMS" communicates with the tcACCESS on the z/OS operating system using the tcACCESS ODBC-component.

The tcACCESS mainframe-part has been installed in a CICS/TS 1.3 region and receives the requests from the Smalltalk programs using a so-called communication buffer.

The buffer is being analyzed by a Stored Procedure and according to the requests defined in the buffer control is being passed to PL/I programs.

These programs gather the data and use tcACCESS to pass the data to the requesting WINDOWS-application.