

Give value to the customer

The name REHAU stands for high functionality and reliability, for research and development. REHAU is a manufacturer of high-quality technical products using polymer materials. The company is involved in development work as well as the actual extrusion and moulding processes. It also provides specifically designed complete systems for virtually every commercial sector. However, REHAU is equally well equipped to cope with finishing and fabrication work, right up to total engineering.

Right between the Fichtel Mountains and Franconia, directly located in the border triangle of Bavaria, Saxony and the Czech Republic is the location of the head quarter of REHAU AG. In 2002 the German REHAU AG + Co produced a revenue of over 964 million Euro. 12 plants, 16 sales offices and 2 administrative locations (Rehau and Erlangen) give work to approx. 7.200 employees. REHAU operates the data processing department with an IBM mainframe running z/OS 1.4. The world wide LAN integrates various AS/400-systems. Windows workstations are being used in the end user departments. REHAU uses ADABAS 7.1.2 as their central database management system. Most all in-house developed applications have been written in NATURAL. To complete the facts, REHAU uses SAP as their standard software package.

During the course of 2000 a project came to live that was called "Host Connectivity Tools". Andreas Voigtmann, graduated computer scientist and tcACCESS project manager says: "At this time we have evaluated a number of products. Because we were already a B.O.S. customer and we had good experiences with the company, the tcACCESS product was amongst the candidates. The goal of the project was to use our HOST-system as an ODBC-Data source. It was our intention to directly access the ADABAS databases from our PC applications." During the evaluation of the individual products tcACCESS became the favorite. Andreas Voigtmann: "The key was the ADABAS support that was available with tcACCESS. Not only the functional bandwidth that the product demonstrated but also the simple fact, that it actually performed the functions it was claiming to do. This was very convincing to us. The fact that tcACCESS makes use of the ADABAS-Predict dictionary when performing the automatic Data-Mapping functions made the implementation of tcACCESS very easy." The intention of REHAU AG in these days was to use tcACCESS as an intelligent data-pump for transferring ADABAS-information into a MS SQL-Server database. Andreas Voigtmann: "It became obvious to us, that we could use tcACCESS to provide a relational query capability to our end-user departments. The usage of SQL would simplify the reporting needs of our end-users."



Different applications have been developed in the past 2 years and are in production at REHAU AG. "Our first application that we built using tcACCESS was a Visual Basic application that today is in use at various locations around the globe. During the night the application will be started by a scheduling system. The application uses ODBC to access the ADABAS databases and pumps the data into a MS SQL-Server database for further processing." Andreas Voigtmann also describes the additional applications: "One of our most important Intranet-application is based upon tcACCESS. The user who signs on to the application will be presented with a selection-roster of queries that he can use and initiate from the browser. The result of the query can either be displayed or downloaded to a file. The file will be in the CSV-format. He can use this format to import the file into an EXCEL spreadsheet." The connection to the mainframe will be established from Microsoft Internet Information Server using TCP/IP. tcACCESS is running in a dedicated CICS region. "All tcACCESS parameter dealing with data-access-efficiency have been adapted to meet our requirements and needs."



Another bread-and-butter application for REHAU AG is the reclamation system. Mister Voigtmann: "Due to our diversity of products and our ambition to provide the best service possible to our customers, the reclamation system is extremely important to us. The system has been developed with the assistance of an external company. It is also an Intranet-application and is based upon LOTUS Workflow-components. The application contains JAVA-programs that access our mainframe ADABAS databases using the tcACCESS JDBC-Server."

One of the original goals for purchasing tcACCESS was the reduction –if not elimination – of individual data-extraction- and reporting-programs for the end-user departments. Andreas Voigtmann: "We have nicely achieved that goal. Selected users from the different departments can now access their data using SQL. They now can perform their queries and have access to the original production data. Every user has his individual VIEWS of the data. The data processing department has predefined the VIEWS. We use RACF to ensure that the user can only use the views he has authorization for."

One final point is important to Andreas Voigtmann: The excellent relationship to the technical support of B.O.S. "You always get help in a short period of time. These support guys are really all-rounder and extremely competent."

So B.O.S. would like to share the motto of REHAU AG:

Give value to the customer.

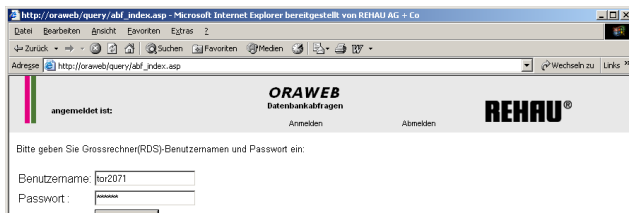
Contacts:

Andreas Voigtmann – REHAU AG
Fon: +49-9283-77-2071
E-Mail: Andreas.Voigtmann@rehau.com
www.rehau.com

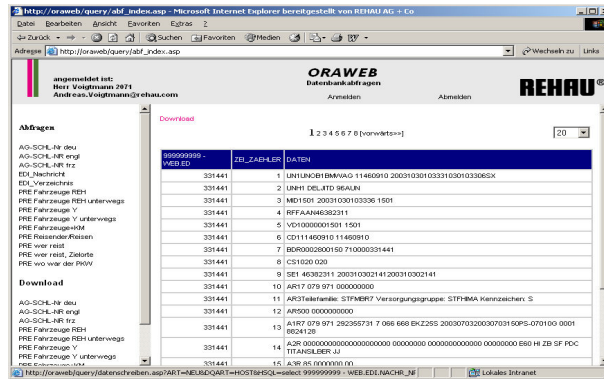
Peter M. Horbach
B.O.S. Software Service und Vertrieb GmbH
Tel: +49-89-4619930
E-Mail: Peter.Horbach@bossoftware.de
www.bossoftware.de



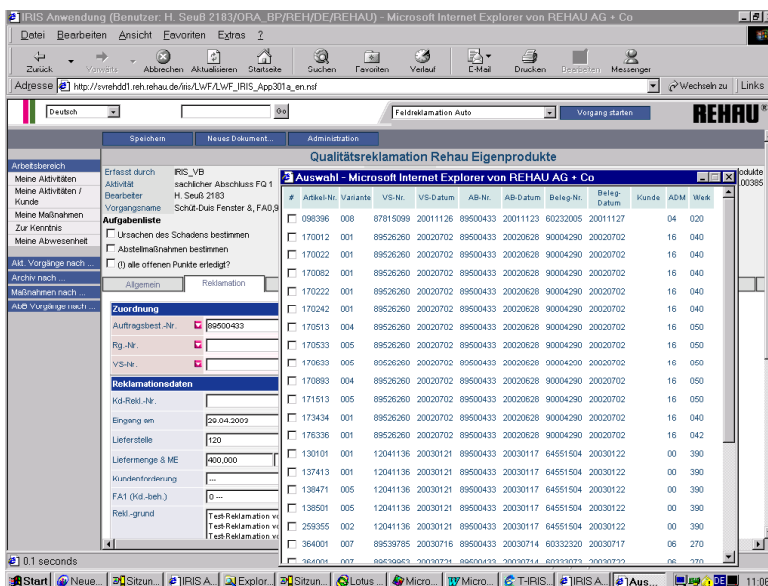
Anwendungsbeispiele der REHAU AG



Example of a tcACCESS based Intranet application. Depending upon the sign on information, the application displays a roster of predefined SQL queries. Active Server Pages are being used to access the ADABAS databases on the mainframe. The ASP uses the tcACCESS ODBC-Server to pass the SQL statements to the mainframe component of tcACCESS.



The result of the query will be displayed in the browser window or can be downloaded to a file in CSV-format. This generalized format can be used to import the data into various applications (i.e. MS-EXCEL).



At the left you'll find a snapshot of the reclamation system that REHAU AG is using. This is an Intranet application based on LOTUS Workflow-components. The application has been developed in cooperation with an external company. The data displayed in the pop-up window comes from ADABAS databases and has been requested by a JAVA-application in conjunction with the tcACCESS JDBC-Server.

The graph displays a simplified view of the tcACCESS usage within the IT-infrastructure at REHAU AG. TCP/IP is being used as the communication protocol. All accesses to the ADABAS/C databases are being secured by RACF. One of the major benefits that tcACCESS offers is the fact, that it can be easily implemented into any existing IT-infrastructure.

