

German Diocese Supports Its Mission with T3's tServer, a Cost-Effective and Powerful Mainframe Platform

With a venerable history beginning with the dawn of Christianity, Germany's Catholic Passau Diocese recently continued its traditional use of mainframe computing when it replaced an underpowered IBM system with a T3 Technologies tServer. This "faster, cheaper, better" processor supports the diocese's diverse religious, social, and charitable ministries with state-of-the-art computing: VSE/ESA, z/VM, and a wide assortment of applications and networking/development tools.

In the area near the German river Donau, the history of Christianity began centuries before the diocese's official founding. As early as 300 A.D., Roman citizens professed Christian faith. The region hosted Saint Florian, traveling bishop Valentin, and Saint Severin. The latter, as civil servant and religious leader, aided the general population, then being pressured and oppressed by the Germanics. Bonifatius founded the Passau Diocese in 739.

The Passau Church spread far into Hungary; covering 42,000 square kilometers, it considered itself the geographically largest diocese within the Holy Roman Empire. Over time, as the dioceses of Wien [Vienna], Wiener Neustadt [Newtown Vienna], Linz, and Saint Plöten emerged, the Passau Diocese lost six-sevenths of its previous territory. In 1803, the German Secularization ended the worldly governance of the bishops of Passau.

Pastoral renaissance began with Bishop Karl Josef von Riccabona. Bishop Simon Konrad Landersdorfer, a Benedictine, led the diocese during 1936-1968, years of difficulty and upheaval. His successor, Dr. Antonius Hofman, was the first bishop who, as a priest in the Passau Diocese, was elevated to the bishop's seat. Since 2002, Wilhelm Schramml has been the 84th bishop of Passau. While the Passau Diocese is now among the smallest in Germany, with about 500,000 Catholics living in the area stretching between the sacred pilgrims' destination Altötting and the Bavarian forest, it looks back with pride on a history of more than 1,250 years since its founding.

Today, covering more than 5,400 square kilometers, the Passau Diocese includes more than 300 parishes and parish associations. The trend toward forming parish associations, within which individual parishes retain independence, is accelerating. In addition to 200 kindergartens, 19 middle and high schools are supported by the church. And another trend has



SVA rapidly became the market leader

worldwide drive for efficiency and

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begun: to communicate their messages as well as deliver their services in a rapidly changing world, the diocese employs modern technologies. Parish offices access the diocese's computing center, the Internet, and their mail servers, via dialup.

help in other areas of focus. Also included are modern — and sometimes controversial — topics/resources such as separation/divorce, psychosocial support and treatment, and an office supporting pregnant women.



Passau Online

The diocese's comprehensive, well-organized, and user-friendly Web site at www.bistum-passau.de illustrates and describes the many religious, social, and charitable initiatives undertaken. It invites visitors to tour the site, beginning with the diocese's overall vision and mission statement, thus including and gently educating even potentially unchurched readers. With open-mindedness and inclusivity, programs span a wide spectrum: from Catholic matters (e.g., orders and priests), to topics concerning the churched community (congregations and events therein, and interests grouped by factors such as gender, profession, age, marital status), to offers of

Grounded in tradition, the Web site's content communicates and explains matters of deep meaning and mystery, helping visitors learn and enjoy, with — for example — dictionary links explaining religiously grounded idioms that might not be universally understood. And the Web site "networks" well with other spiritual communities, linking to organizations such as Caritas (a confederation of Catholic relief, development and social service organizations), and offering a specialist for religious sects. In all, content demonstrates and supports real-world pastoral work.

Passau Diocese Acquires Cost-Effective tServer Mainframe Platform

In these times, there's a worldwide drive for efficiency and cost-effectiveness. Trends such as outsourcing, downsizing, and modernizing are buzzwords — perhaps comforting to management, sometimes bewildering or threatening to staff. For data processing-driven industries such as banking and airlines, investing in back-room infrastructure provides clear bottom-line payoffs such as offering more financial products or better optimizing seat pricing and equipment usage.

cost-effectiveness



But for other industries — e.g., healthcare — computing is overhead, taking resources from front-line services. And consider churches: parishioners aren't likely to directly benefit from technology or care about what's installed, so hardware can be seen as an expense rather than an investment. Yet without it, mission-related activities, programs, and outreach are limited to what can be tracked manually — not much better than back-of-envelope management — not a scalable infrastructure. So acquisition and operation is always a balance between too-little and too-expensive.

The Passau Diocese's use of data processing goes back some time, though not quite 1,250 years. After lengthy preparations, the first IBM computer was installed in 1970: an IBM 360/20 with DOS/VS. The system was used for general administrative accounting and handling church taxation (funds collected from individuals for operating religious institutions). By 2003, choosing a tServer to replace their aging Multiprise 2000 let the diocese simultaneously upgrade processing power and lower the total cost of ownership. Software installed included VSE/ESA, z/VM, CICS TS, Visual Age Generator, and VM:Batch.

The diocese's applications and data-handling services have become quite diverse, including:

- Church Registry storing personal records of about 550,000 people
- Church taxes for about 300,000 accounts
- Bookkeeping for 35 customers
- Property Registry office
- Newspaper customer list, labeling, and shipping
- Payroll for about 6,500 employees
- 50 registered CICS users
- Connecting to Windows-based PCs.

Within the first year's use, the tServer far exceeded expectations. With more MIPS than the replaced Multiprise 2000, tServer throughput improved by a factor of five or more for various applications. Some jobs which took three hours now finish in less than 35 minutes. And the system is reliable: Since the



machine entered production status, VM has been restarted no more than four times. Installing the tServer yielded an immediate three-year annual Return-on-Investment (ROI) of about 25%, including reduced maintenance and software licensing charges.

Fundamental Software Inc.'s FLEX-ES is the key to tServer positioning and success. Instead of implementing the mainframe instruction set in hardware, FLEX-ES provides it with software, operating as an application program on an IBM xSeries server running UNIX or Linux. It provides a full-featured mainframe supporting diverse emulated devices running on an extraordinarily cost-effective hardware platform.

Overall, the tServer provides a pleasant combination of "faster, cheaper, better": more compute power, lower costs, and higher reliability. This allowed retaining Passau Diocese employees; the staff of five that administers the data center and network enjoys the greatly improved facilities.



An IBM Premier Business Partner

T3 Technologies' Business Process Provides More Than Just a "Sale"

Rather than offering a one-size-fits-all solution or simply performing a quick-and-dirty requirements analysis, T3 Technologies collaborates with clients to specify, plan, and install new equipment. T3's proprietary, detailed, and step-by-step checklist ensures problem-free ordering of the proper hardware and software.

T3 has installed numerous systems, including many more FLEX-ES solutions than other IBM Business Partners. Learning from these diverse projects has allowed creating a standard system planning/installation checklist. And customizing the list for each site and system provides a systematic approach for handling routine and unusual requirements. In fact, rather than committing to spending specific elapsed time on site, T3 targets and completes a mutually agreed-upon task list. Company expertise allows comprehensive what-if, contingency, operation, and upgrade planning, making T3 Technologies a valuable long-term partner rather than an install-and-goodbye vendor.

T3 Technologies is an IBM Premier Business Partner, dedicated to sales and support of tServer mainframe systems for use in production and development data centers. Service offerings include telephone support and traditional systems programming services for z/OS, VSE/ESA, z/VM, TCP/IP, CICS TS, Linux for S/390, and other mainframe system software.

T3's status as the most experienced, most highly referenced, and most successful vendor of FLEX-ES technology, its outstanding reputation for services, and its strong financial standing, all demonstrate a professional and reliable partner for you. T3 has offices in the United States, United Kingdom, and Italy, as well as thirteen partners throughout the world.

Established in 1992, T3 Technologies is a privately held Florida-based corporation.

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SVA GmbH: A Wealth of Experience

System/390 has always been one of SVA's core competencies; with system consultants and engineers totaling over 500 years of IBM experience, SVA has the largest System/390 sales volume amongst IBM Premier Business Partners in Germany. Through partnership with T3 Technologies, SVA introduced the tServer in German-speaking countries at the end of 2001; from this pioneering role, SVA rapidly became the market leader, with ever-increasing technical know-how and support. Its substantial and growing installed systems base — many dozen systems — demonstrates complete customer satisfaction. To support increasing market demand, a dedicated tServer team was formed to provide integrated consultation, implementation, and maintenance.

In close cooperation with T3 Technologies, SVA satisfies all customer requirements, with intensive hands-on support throughout project lifecycles. A specialists team supporting all of Germany — including sales managers and system experts — provides precise customized on-site pre-sales analysis, followed by SVA's ongoing high-quality installation and post-sales support. This collaborative process led to rapid and quick project specification and implementation for customer Bistum Passau.

Founded in 1997 with headquarters in Wiesbaden, Germany, SVA provides hardware and software sales, service, and consulting, emphasizing IBM eServer (xSeries, pSeries, zSeries) and TotalStorage products. Reliability and high quality service are basic principles which have secured this exceptionally high market acceptance and rapid company growth. With more than 80 employees, SVA regularly hires, promotes, and trains its sales, engineering, and support staffs. SVA has branch offices in Düsseldorf, Hamburg, Stuttgart, Dortmund, Berlin and Karlsruhe.

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