Silent Cubes Success Story

„We now have Silent Cubes right in our office, they perform their service, we don't have to pay any attention to them whatsoever, and yet we can be absolutely secure in the knowledge that not one bit of sensitive data will ever be lost."

Günter Weinberger, Director of IT, County District Office of Regen

Project: County District Office of Regen | Partner: LivingData GmbH | Solution: EASY Software   Date: November 2009

FAST LTA

Ultra-secure long-term data storage for the Country District Office of Regen

Municipal administration implements archiving solution from FAST LTA and Living Data

In its double role as a municipal governmental authority as well as a state administrative body, among the many things the County District Office of Regen (LRA Regen) regulates is driver's licenses and automobile registrations, land register services, food safety monitoring, environmental protection, building permits and youth welfare services. Every single one of these departments generates large volumes of sensitive data needing to be archived. The agency employs a total of 210 people to attend to the needs and interests of the district's citizens.

The LRA Regen had already been using "easy Archiv" software for the past ten years to secure its data on a WORM jukebox. Yet the hardware had become outdated and the capacity maxed out. Thus, the powers that be in Regen began a mid-year search for a new solution.

Since the agency had already been working closely for many years with Living Data, a system and software provider for public institutions and a subsidiary of AKDB, they were the first partner LRA turned to in their quest for suitable replacement hardware. The LRA was specifically seeking a revision-safe archiving solution based on WORM storage which would not only be readily scalable as well as user-friendly but also systematically stable and reasonably priced.

In order to give the LRA as much leeway as possible in making their decision, Living Data presented them with four different archiving systems from four different providers. Following brief deliberations, LRA opted for the hard disk-based Silent Cubes solution from FAST LTA, the Munich specialists for digital long-term data storage. In the words of Günter Weinberger, Director of IT for LRA Regen, the storage cubes "clearly had the best range of functions. And they were also the solution best corresponding to our requirements. We now have the Silent Cubes right in our office, they perform their service, we don't have to pay any attention to them whatsoever, and yet we can be absolutely secure in the knowledge that not one bit of sensitive data will ever be lost. This is the ideal situation, we've found our dream solution."

From product presentation to rollout in just one month

Not much more than a month passed from the initial presentation of the storage cubes to awarding the contract to FAST LTA and Living Data to the ultimate rollout. The entire installation as well as its start-up and initial storing of long-term data was completed in one day. While the system hardware was replaced, the rest of the system remained intact. Accommodating the Silent Cubes to the "easy Archiv" configuration went relatively smoothly and required no further installations or tweaking. The system has been so intuitively and logically developed that no training courses were even necessary for the six IT employees entrusted with the archiving duties. After the Living Data technicians effected the transfer process, the IT staff at Regen was able to incrementally copy over the old data from the predecessor system (jukebox) to the Silent Cubes without a problem.

„The solution best corresponding to our requirements."

Günter Weinberger,
IT Director, LRA Regen

The solution has been up and running at the LRA for about two months now without a single disruptive bug or glitch. In fact, before making the recommendation to their clients, the Living Data technicians had put Silent Cubes through all its paces at their own facilities – and its performance was to their utter satisfaction. "The quality of the Silent Cubes is what sold us, not to mention the perfect overall cooperation with the entire FAST LTA team. We look forward to more joint projects in the future," states Holger Bermann, Director of Controlling, Sales & Marketing for Living Data.

Special user-friendly solution for long-term data storage

The LRA District Office uses Silent Cubes to store very sensitive data which would be catastrophic if ever lost. This data includes automobile registrations, financial information such as payment histories as well as general document management information. Because the IT department archives all its own data, it thus benefits from its own system. In the near future, the Child Protective Services office likewise intends to use the new solution to archive its electronic child welfare files. The high degree of satisfaction expressed by the LRA staff in Regen and the related positive word of mouth has even since borne new fruit. Based on the recommendation from Regen and successful product demonstrations, another county district office has ordered a similar system while three others are exhibiting active interest and arranging for purchase.

Should the solution ever require scaling, all that needs to be done is to simply add the necessary number of cubes; the software recognizes them immediately and ensures all data subsequently stored will be appropriately allocated and will make optimum utilization of the cubes. Another reason why the cubes receive such high marks. "Myself and our employees were all thrilled with the simplicity of the solution and the ease of installation as well as the service we received from FAST LTA and Living Data. The terms of the agreement and the negotiating of the maintenance contract with FAST LTA also worked to our complete satisfaction," added IT Director Weinberger.

The district office signed a Silent Cubes service agreement directly with FAST LTA. FAST LTA thereby guarantees the agency on-site rectification of any problems which might arise – with all services performed by its own in-house technicians – without any disruption to system operations nor loss of any data. Although in light of the routine reports provided by the Silent Cube early warning system, the service center will always remain informed about a cube's status at all times anyway. Yet Living Data, providing the so-called first-level support, still remains the agency's first contact for the total package as such.

Reiner Bielmeier, FAST LTA Business Manager, is also very pleased by how the project evolved. "Most of our previous Silent Cubes success stories were in the healthcare industry where they are ensuring the security of permanent data that would be catastrophic if lost. Now municipal authorities and institutions are also recognizing the potential of our storage cubes and realizing the many key benefits of using the cubes. We're seeing steadily rising interest in hard disk-based long-term data storage and ever-growing knowledge of its exceptional advantages. We would gladly welcome further collaborations with such accomplished and prestigious partners like Living Data in the future," extols Bielmeier.

About Silent Cubes

Silent Cubes are revolutionizing the highly-secure and cost-effective storage of long-term data. Not only are Silent Cubes revision-safe as well as energy-efficient, their simple and modular structure enables problem-free scaling into the petabyte realm, high availability and easy replication, allowing their full use at multiple locations. Further features distinguishing the multi-certified storage cubes include quadruple redundancy and preventing data loss due to batch errors by using hard disks from three different manufacturers within one storage unit. Our proprietary WORM controller additionally protects the contents of all the hard disks against deliberate or inadvertent deletion and/or change down to the very lowest hardware level.

The District of Regen

Spanning 975.07 square kilometers, the administrative district of Regen is the 31st largest of the 71 districts making up the state of Bavaria (seventh largest in Lower Bavaria).

Longest north-south expansion: 35 km
Longest east-west expansion: 50 km
Highest point: 1456 m above sea level (summit of Großer Arber)
Lowest point: 386 m above sea level (Lake Höllenstein at the county border)

As part of the Lower Bavaria administrative region, the administrative district of Regen encompasses 97,506 hectares and 24 municipal entities.

The region is nestled within the Bavarian Forest and bordered to the east by the Czech Republic, to the south by the district of Freyung-Grafenau and to the north by the district of Cham. The district of Regen has a current population of approximately 82,500 residents with 40% of its residents living in its three most populous cities: Regen (12,500), Viechtach (8,500), and Zwiesel (10,500).