

Silent Cubes Success Story

Project: Stryker Trauma GmbH
Solution: Docuware
Partner: Vater Group

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Burkhard Henning, IT Administrator, Stryker Trauma GmbH

Medical technology company Stryker Trauma GmbH entrusts its archiving to FAST LTA and DocuWare



Hard disk-based storage on Silent Cubes together with the DocuWare document management system create the ideal hardware/software combination for revision-safe long-term data archiving

Stryker Trauma GmbH in Kiel is a subsidiary of the global Stryker concern headquartered in Kalamazoo, Michigan (USA) and the only company within the Stryker group to concentrate on the intramedullary treatment of bone fractures. The Kiel location develops and manufactures medical nail implants, screws and instruments primarily used to treat broken bones. The company bases its success on continually investing in research, development, production and quality. Stryker also insists its IT systems reflect such high quality standards.

Prior to early 2009, Stryker archived its sensitive data on a file server supplemented by tape backup. Yet the Windows file system was quickly overtaxed by the sheer volume of data, ultimately proving too slow and unstable. Stryker, needing to find a new, Unix-based file storage solution, turned to the IT specialists at the Vater Group. Stryker was looking for a revision-safe archiving solution able to reliably handle millions of files, be ultra-redundant as well as scalable, and ensure fail-safe data protection even against weather, water or fire damage. To be legally compliant, the system needed to be able to store sensitive data for at least the next 25-30 years because Stryker, establishing a period of 25 years for the archiving of its documents, needed to ensure all this data would remain without change for at least this length of time.

Stryker embraces a professional combination of archiving components

After consulting with the Vater Group's IT experts, the decision makers at Stryker quickly opted for the certified hard disk-based Silent Cubes from FAST LTA, the specialists for digital long-term data storage, coupled with an archiving solution from DocuWare, experts in integrated document management. Together, this hardware/software combination created a powerful, efficient and low-maintenance solution for legally-compliant long-term archiving of immense amounts of data. Regardless of format or source, DocuWare integrates all paper documents and

electronic data, including bills and receipts, drawings and figures, letters, files and emails, into one centralized document pool which is then archived on the Silent Cubes.

Stryker GmbH uses the archiving system to store data from various departments such as R&D, Accounting and Customer Service, for example. Apart from engineering drawings and quality reporting documents, the system now also stores invoices, tax records and shipping documents, although the focus remains on production data – accounting for approximately 100,000 documents per year, roughly 1.3 million individual sheets of paper. Because it's vitally important to the company to reliably and unalterably store test results and quality reports for long periods of time, yet have them be able to be retrieved quickly should there ever be internal or external inquiries or reviews, a huge volume of such documents are archived on Silent Cubes.

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Successful system implementation and start-up

The FAST LTA Silent Cubes and the DocuWare document management system have been up and running at Stryker since the beginning of 2009. The actual installation of the storage cubes could not have run any smoother; the whole process was completed in a single morning by a team of FAST LTA technicians and staff from Stryker's own IT department. "Right from the start, the system was up and running without a single problem. We actually didn't expect the installation would go so smoothly! That alone made us more than pleased. Plus, because the solution is so intuitive to use, we didn't even have to hold any employee training," relates Burkhard Henning, head of Stryker's IT department. The company installed two Silent Cubes, each with its associated Head Unit, at two separate fire-safe sections of the building. By having these two storage cubes replicate each other, Stryker meets all compliance regulations and now enjoys revision-safe archiving.

Burkhard Henning,
Stryker

As the number of applications Stryker uses continually increases, so does the need for comprehensive long-term archiving and the interest of its staff in the new archiving system. "Now that word's gotten around about how easy the archiving and retrieving of data on one's own monitor is, the demand for electronic data availability keeps rising. I've lost track of how many employees have asked to be given access to the system," remarks IT specialist Henning on the employee feedback he's received. Despite such increasing use and the growing volume of data, there has never been any lag or delay in accessing any of the data, a factor assuredly attributable to such aspects as the generous 1 TB Silent Cubes cache.

The hard disk-based Silent Cubes solution has also allowed Stryker to do away with its previous complex and error-prone tape backup procedures. The expensive file server option is also becoming a thing of the past, now only being used for local buffering. The Cubes integrate very easily and smoothly into the DocuWare system and are thus also compatible with all popular archiving solutions. The fact that the storage cubes are extremely energy-efficient like-wise carried quite a lot of weight. While Stryker still has its old files archived in paper form, all this older information is now also being gradually digitized for storage in the new archiving system; an example of this being all procedural claims management information being electronically documented and archived over the course of 2009.

Data security and comprehensive service: Guaranteed

The Cubes function on a principle of quadruple redundancy, preventing data loss even due to batch errors by using hard disks from three different manufacturers within one storage unit. A 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 storage cubes are of such sturdy design that even should there ever be a malfunction, they'll continue to run, never losing even one single bit of data. Even given such a high level of security, FAST LTA still maintains a telephone hotline and its service center automatically receives regular status reports from each and every device – all to ensure that a FAST LTA technician can make emergency on-site calls as needed around-the-clock, 352 days a year. All malfunctions can also be rectified without taking the system off-line.

Reiner Bielmeier, FAST LTA Business Manager, sums up how the project developed and played out as a whole: “We’re seeing a trend of steadily increasing interest in our storage cubes from the private sector as well as from public agencies, obviously due to the often explosive increase in the amount of data needing to be stored coupled with ever-intensifying governmental archiving regulations and the growing acceptance of electronic signatures. Our Silent Cubes are able to guarantee absolute data security at an excellent price/performance ratio – and the significance of this by no means escaped Stryker. We welcomed the opportunity to support this company in optimizing its archiving system so successfully. We had nothing but excellent teamwork between Stryker and DocuWare over the entire course of the project.”



Further information about the Silent Cubes long-term storage solution can be found at www.silentcubes.com

About Silent Cubes

Silent Cubes are revolutionizing the highly-secure and cost-effective storage of long-term data. Not only are they 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.