FAST LTA

Customer Case Study | Silent Cubes | Immutable Financial Archive

How Degussa Bank archives 350,000 documents per month without changing disks

The bank processes approximately 350,000 new documents every month. When it modernised its document management system in 2013, it wanted to eliminate the need to check and replace optical archive media. Two Silent Cubes, one in each data centre, took over long-term archiving for the new ECM system.

Millions of documents require more than storage capacity

Degussa Bank centrally manages account statements, loan applications, tax statements and other customer documents. Its many branches do not store these documents themselves. In 2013, the bank replaced its existing ECM system because it could no longer adequately meet growing requirements. It selected d.3 from d.velop. During implementation, approximately 40 million documents were migrated from the old system.

The new ECM processes around 500 document types from up to twelve sources. Employees review and process documents through a digital workflow. Behind this, an archive was needed to store finalised documents over the long term in a verifiable manner. The previous storage on removable optical media required manual checks and media changes; according to System Administrator Horst Dietz, the mechanical components were prone to failures.

The experience?

“They simply sit in the data centre and do their job reliably, without requiring much intervention from us.”

Horst Dietz, Responsible for Service Systems at Degussa Bank



Photos: Degussa Bank, 2014

COMEX

An archive in both data centres

Following a recommendation from d.velop, Degussa Bank selected two Silent Cubes from FAST LTA, one for each data centre. They archive data from d.3. The bank required certification due to potential inspections by regulators and auditors.

FAST LTA supplied the storage and associated Head Units preconfigured. According to Dietz, he only needed to connect the systems afterwards. The setup described in the source consisted of two replicated installations, each with 8 TB of net capacity. If a disk fails, both Dietz and FAST LTA automatically receive a notification, allowing a replacement to be arranged.

Less manual tasks around the archive

The bank no longer needed to check and replace optical media for new archive data. Dietz reported that the Silent Cubes operated reliably and that his team had very little work to do regarding long-term archiving. This allowed the ECM to keep documents available to employees while archive management took place in the background.

The combination provided Degussa Bank with a solution for two types of growth: the daily influx of new documents and the already extensive historical collection. For Dietz, what mattered was that the bank could rely on the archive without the recurring manual tasks associated with optical media.