[Brose-Group]

Central tool for 800 printers

brose
Technik für Automobile

mySPAD – Efficient printer management for SAP systems

In 1908 the company founder Max Brose opened a trading firm catering to the automotive and aviation industries, and eleven years later he and his partner, the chemist Ernst Jühling, put the Max Brose & Co. KG in operation in Coburg, Germany; this site has remained the headquarters of the international automotive supplier up to this day. In the late 20's of the last century, Brose broke new ground when it put the first 'crank mechanism' for opening and closing car windows on the German market, introducing a comfortable and safe technology that firmly established itself as a standard in the automotive industry. Further product development milestones include the introduction of the first electric window lift in 1963 and in 1978 the first electric seat adjustment mechanism on the European market. In the 80's, Brose expanded its business activities beyond national borders, turning into an international company group specialized in mechatronic components and systems for vehicle doors and seats. With nearly 40 sites across 19 countries, the automotive supplier is present in all automotive markets. Brose is currently the seven-largest family-owned company among the international top 100 automotive suppliers. One in every four cars produced worldwide features at least one Brose product.

Brose – Automotive technology

Brose serves the international automotive industry, supplying more than 40 vehicle brands and leading seating system manufacturers. About 9,100 employees located at roughly 40 sites across 19 countries develop and produce mechatronic components and systems for vehicle doors and seats.
In the 2006 business year, the Brose corporation generated revenues amounting to approximately 2.3 billion Euros. At present, Brose is the seven-largest family-owned company among the international top 100 automotive suppliers.

IT-Areas, SAP-Systems

The company's IT systems are managed at the Coburg headquarters. There are four IT departments: central data center technology, telecommunication technology, service department and data center operations. Bernd Bätz is responsible for data center technology at Brose, which involves providing the IT infrastructure for the Brose Group. Bätz and his team of sixteen service the Brose's SAP IT system. "All our central SAP systems are installed and hosted here in Coburg. It is our task to provide and maintain the technology for the roughly 20 SAP systems and to make sure it keeps stride with the company's steady path of growth. We started using SAP products in 1999, and since 2002 all production sites around the world are connected to our SAP network. We install the servers, operate the data center and take care of the technical aspects of release updates, for example, our stock control system, the purchasing system or the intranet portal. And we also provide direct support to the individual sites. Whenever a new plant is built, my staff installs the server systems on site. We also train the local employees and support operations," explains Bätz. Two years ago, Brose installed an SAP portal to serve as a central collaboration platform for all employees.

Centralized and efficient management of SAP output devices

"Our SAP landscape lacked central printer management," says Bätz. "Printing is a critical function for us – production would be

«Da wir viele SAP-Produktions- und Testsysteme betreiben, haben wir lange darauf gewartet, dass mit einer zentralen Druckerkonfiguration eine fällige Lücke geschlossen wird.»

Bernd Bätz, Leiter Technik Rechenzentrum,
IT-/Informationssysteme der Brose Gruppe

unthinkable without paper-based printouts. We are connected with our customers via EDI. If a customer requires, for example, a door module for the rear left door of a VW with a specific loudspeaker, we receive the request electronically and print it out directly on the shop floor. The colleague from production then takes the paper and equips the door module according to the customer's specification.

Since time is a critical factor, a reliable and uninterrupted printing process is imperative for production. Given this context, consistent and stable management of the SAP system's printers is also highly important," continues Bätz. "We run our SAP systems on AIX, the IBM UNIX. As we operate many SAP production and test systems, we had been waiting for centralized printer configuration for a long time. DETEC helped us to close this gap with mySPAD, enabling us to manage our printers in a centralized and efficient manner. Even non-technical employees can manage printers since the user interface greatly simplifies printer handling for the various SAP systems. The improved stability is something we also strongly appreciate," adds Bätz.

Central tool used to configure 800 printers

Brose operates most printers, approximately 200, in Coburg. When added up across all sites, the logistics system comprises about 800 printers. "We plan to use mySPAD as our central printer management tool for all SAP systems. We already integrated mySPAD into various systems and aim to set up a central system where users can manage all printers after a single logon. Provided things continue to run as smoothly, we will integrate the remaining production systems by the end of the year. mySPAD's OMS interface – which facilitates automated printer setup and management, including in the host spoolers – has not yet been fully implemented. But we want to use mySPAD for automatic host printer setup as well.

About DETEC GmbH

DETEC, based in Ruesselsheim, is a software house that specializes in software products and services for the layouting, production and distribution of professionally formatted business documents (such as household bills, business invoices, sales orders and goods notes) - printed or in digital form.

DETEC specifically supports the professional «Business Communication» (B2B, B2C), both internal and external, for more than 400 customers, nationally and internationally. The DETEC range of products provides you with the ability to produce, format and integrate documents for multiple, often parallel, output channels (print, archiving, electronic distribution) in your output system. Further, PDF/A conform documents can be produced for archiving, and with the help of qualified partner products, electronic signatures can be created and the process workflow optimized - thus reducing costs for the user.

As of the 1st January 2009, Beta Systems Software AG has acquired all business units of DETEC Decision Technology Software GmbH and DSP DETEC Software Products GmbH. DETEC is now a 100% subsidiary of Beta Systems.

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