

PDF efficiency for the BKK Federal Association

The BKK Federal Association is the confederation of approximately 200 German company health insurances and its 8 regional associations. At this moment the company health insurance in Germany has over 14 million members. At the BKK Federal Association work amongst others economists, social scientists, jurists, IT specialists, pharmacists and medical scientists. Every day an enormous amount of information is processed. Therefore a lot of PDFs are being used in the BKK. The Portable Document Format (PDF) is today the global standard for safe exchange of electronic documents. It can be displayed on nearly all terminals as it is cross-platform. However the creation of PDFs at single PC workplaces is not always efficient for large companies.

Adobe Acrobat as a server solution

The PDF is an open file format created by Adobe Systems. PDF files maintain the quality of the original documents. Fonts, pictures, graphics and layout of every source document are maintained – independent of the application used to create the PDF document. The creation of a PDF at a workplace normally requires a specific software on the PC. For the BKK Federal Association however PC-WARE implemented a server based solution on the basis of the Adobe Elements Server.

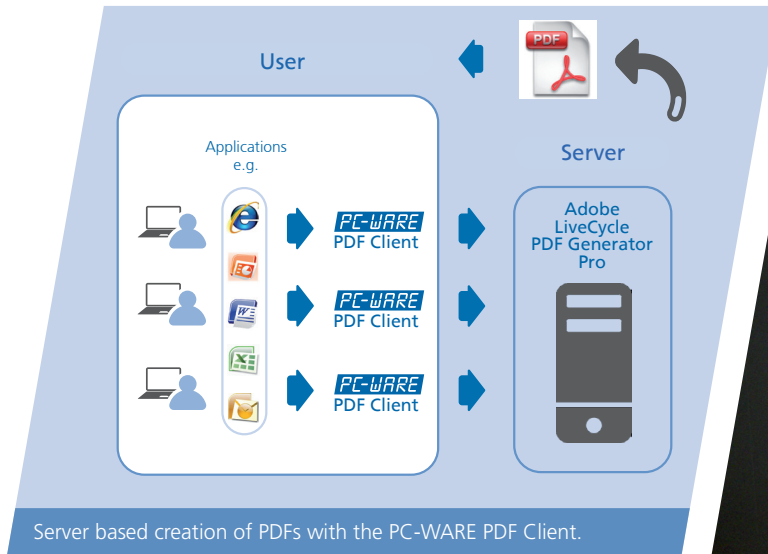
Server based PDF creation: easy and fast

With the Client component created by PC-WARE the employees of the BKK Federal Association can use a server based converter to generate fast and easy PDFs from source documents - with only a few clicks and without additional software on the PC! Furthermore the whole process to generate PDFs has been optimised to meet the specific needs of BKK Federal Association. This customised implementation has not only raised the user value of PDFs itself but also saves time and costs per PC workplace for the organisation on a daily basis. In total app. 400 employees take advantage of the central PDF converter.

“The advantages of our PDF solution created by PC-WARE in comparison to a common single workplace version of the Adobe Acrobat are obvious: there is no need for installation, administration and training and on the server side only one software component has to be hosted. And this saves money and time for everyone.”

Jörg Beckmann, IT-Service
BKK Federal Association





Server based creation of PDFs with the PC-WARE PDF Client.

More flexibility – less license costs

The user value of the new PDF converter becomes apparent in various ways at the BKK Federal Association. With the client component developed by PC-WARE there is no limitation regarding the server product. Furthermore with this solution employees can easily transform files into PDFs by “drag & drop”. This process includes a direct communication with the central converter which does not only improve the data traffic flow, but also the security: data files do not have to be filed in “monitored folders”. Besides data security can be added to prevent unwanted manipulations. And: there are no license costs per client.

The PC-WARE PDF Client

On a technical basis this Client program runs on a Microsoft Windows - platform which communicates to an entity of the Adobe LiveCycle PDF Generator through a Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP). Practically this means that with the help of the PC-WARE Client a flexible usage of the PDF generator is possible. That is the case because the source of conversion and also the configuration of the conversion are freely selectable and can be adjusted.

The amount of conversion sources is not limited and the document batch can be combined flexibly. The PC-WARE Client is also free of external dependencies, e.g. program libraries and therefore can be distributed easily in the network. The actual client application runs without limitations on all Windows Systems from Windows 95 upwards.

Fast and individual solution

The Adobe Acrobat Elements Server including the PDF converter runs successfully at the BKK Federal Association since February 2006. Employees easily create PDF files with only a few clicks and without additional software. The product has been adjusted to BKKs wishes and specific circumstances on the basis of a joined development of requirements for the client component. Tests and troubleshooting took place in a dialogue process.

The complete implementation of this individual solution - from the first plan to the problem-free usage - only took three months.



INDUSTRY
Health Care

SOLUTION
Integration and customized implementation of a server based PDF converter

PRODUCTS
PC-WARE PDF Client,
Adobe Acrobat Elements Server (new version: Adobe LiveCycle PDF Generator Pro)