Foxit

FOXIT RENDITION SERVER PAVES THE WAY TO E-JUSTICE FOR THE BAVARIAN JUDICIARY

Unisys Germany is a global IT service provider and has been an outsourcing partner of the Bavarian Judiciary since 2003. One of their latest mutual projects was the implementation of Foxit Software's Rendition Server, which currently converts around 10,000 documents per week into the PDF file format. With Rendition Server the Judiciary is able to convert scanned images in PDF/A, compress file sizes, and perform Optical Character Recognition (OCR) to ensure documents are unaltered, reduce storage space and make data transmission easier, and make the content searchable.

The Bavarian State Ministry of Justice is the highest administrative authority for about 14,150 judges, judicial officers, parole officers, court assistants, and civil servants. It also employs 5,675 civil servants and citizens working in penitentiary system. Introduced in October 2013, the German e-Justice Act regulates the flexible and gradual implementation of electronic legal transactions in judiciary beginning on January 1, 2018. The nationwide implementation is estimated to be complete in January 2026. By electronic filing (e-filing) the judiciary is complying with the e-Justice Act and meets the judiciary specifications of the legislature. In Bavaria, the district court of Landshut was selected for a pilot project. Electronic legal transactions have been executed since December 1, 2014, and the electronic filing is running since March 2015. Meanwhile, e-filing has also been introduced at the district courts of Regensburg and Coburg.

Unisys Germany is a global information technology company specialized in providing industry-specific and high-performance security-centric solutions to customers in the public sector, financial services, industry (automotive, logistics, chemicals and pharmaceuticals) and clients in trade. Unisys' offerings include security software and services; digital transformation and workplace services; industry applications and services; and innovative software operating environments for high-intensity enterprise computing. For further information please visit www.unisys.com.

Since the end of 2017, parties to a case can submit their documents electronically to all Bavarian courts. In order to align the IT technical processes to the electronic legal transactions, the Bavarian Judiciary has introduced an electronic platform for communication (eKP) to support the electronic legal transactions. For e-Justice, the electronic integration portal (eIP) was also introduced, which supports judges, judicial officers, and service staff in their work with electronic files. In court, incoming paper-based mail is scanned TR-RESISCAN-compliant with Open Text Captiva.

The filing and archiving is made using the format PDF/A-2U. "2U" meaning the second standard part of PDF/A, which is Unicode-capable and therefore is fully text-searchable. Furthermore, documents using this format are more accessible.

In the course of this groundbreaking transition, Unisys recommended implementing Foxit Rendition Server. Rendition Server is a central PDF web service platform designed for standardized, organizational wide conversion of documents to PDF and PDF/A. Unisys introduced Rendition Server at the Bavarian Judiciary for a number of reasons: First, the solution is capable of processing high volumes due to load balancing. And secondly, the open interfaces and the robust architecture were key factors in the decision for the judiciary-wide deployment in Bavaria. With Rendition Server, it doesn't matter where in Bavaria a PDF document is created or by whom. The PDF is created extremely fast according to a consistent standard and is fully auditable.

Unisys quickly deployed the platform with a special focus on a high throughput-rate, allowing users to quickly receive their converted PDF documents. The "Unisys Rendition Server Interface" (URSI) provides easy connectivity to complex systems such as the electronic communications platform (eKP) and the electronic information portal (eIP) by supporting SOAP, REST, and open interfaces. Delivering the desired results in the trial, the product was ordered and fully implemented.

"Foxit Rendition Server is exactly the right solution when one wants to convert documents to PDF files centrally and enterprise-wide. It was like the Rendition Server was customer made for the Bavarian Judiciary", says Thomas Ellegast, project manager of Unisys Germany. Andreas Weinzierl – head of the Bavarian Judiciary's IT center – confirms this by adding, "By implementing Rendition Server we significantly increased the performance for creating PDF documents. The creation of PDF files becomes so much easier for users and enables them to quickly and easily file in PDF format."

The next steps are to connect Rendition Server to the Microsoft SharePoint servers and integrate with Windows Explorer, via a plug-in, to convert the resulting documents (e.g. TIFF-files) to compressed documents of the PDF/A-2U format.