

Nolte Küchen solves a logistical bottleneck with AS2-Gateway

Searching for a solution to correct the poor coordination between product delivery and the delayed receipt of electronic delivery notices, Nolte Küchen came across the internet protocol EDIINT AS2, the new communications module of i-effect, and solved its EDI problems.

The second largest kitchen brand in Germany, whose roots go back to the 1930s, exports into 42 countries across the world. Kitchens are designed and built in Löhne, the "World City of Kitchens," and 30 Km away in Melle, where supplemental components, such as, electrical appliances are delivered. To coordinate the combination of supplemental components and those built by Nolte, the distribution center in Melle is equipped with, what is considered, leading technology in Germany. Nolte Küchen deals with 200 suppliers which include well-known companies like Bosch and Siemens Appliances, Blum, Egger, Hettich and Kesseböhmer. Every Month about 1500 orders go out as EDIFACT and about 1000 as PDFs to



*Die Kompetenz
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their business partners. An order can comprise of up to 100 items. It is a troubling thought that trucks, which had short distances to travel, had to wait at the loading docks for advanced shipping notices to arrive.

Herbert Czerwonka, the system administrator, holds the limited transmission capacity of Businessmail X.400 responsible, which was used to transfer, among other things, ORDERS, order confirmations, shipping, and payment notices with 25 partners. "Because

the transmission rate of ISDN at high volumes is much slower, the DESADV would often arrive a half an hour after the truck." The solution to this problem should include the main advantages of X.400. "The Telebox has a good reputation among our partners and is seen as a secure mode of transmission."



The technology of the distribution center in Melle is considered a leader in Germany

The IT representative came across the EDIINT AS2, when menten GmbH introduced him to the i-effect *AS2 module. The internet protocol transmits in real time at every volume. "The data is not transmitted by dial-up, but rather is provided by the AS2-Gateway from T-Systems and reaches the Telebox in 2 to 3 minutes" Czerwonka said. Nolte Küchen communicates with three partners with the AS2 directly. The dedicated AS2 communications server is the iSeries 810.

In 2001 Nolte Küchen switched from an inefficient



Production site Löhne - the "World City of Kitchens."

PC program to the sever-based Telebox and EDIFACT modules, the predecessors to i-effect. "We wanted a solution at the place, where the data is created. Our key business processes run on the iSeries. The conversion and communication software should also" is how Czerwonka justified the switch to the Native Solution. The tip from an independent EDP consultation to look at the products of menten GmbH, was just the right thing for system administrator Czerwonka. "The cost/performance ratio was the best of all the competitors. Others offered packages, that had functions, which were not needed, and thus, too expensive."

Nolte Küchen uses i-effect, in addition to the classical EDI-Workflow functions, in other areas of distribution. i-effect converts Spool order data into PDF documents using the i5 550, which is to be sent on to approximately 75 suppliers via Email. That is, incidentally, the only process that Czerwonka doesn't allow i-effect to do automatically, because the dispatcher ships only after personal quality control and sometimes prints the PDF first when necessary. The module i-effect *DBEXPORT exports the production data directly from the DB2 and converts it into the editable formats TXT, XLS,

or CSV, so that it can be edited and changed directly in a digital format by Nolte's partners. The production data is retrievable as compressed by i-effect as ZIPs.



Nolte Küchen is the second largest kitchen brand in Germany.

Herbert Czerwonka can attest for the smooth operation i-effect and its predecessors. The initial implementation was fast and easy. menten took care of the unfinished mapping details quickly. The switch to i-effect and the upgrade to AS2 brought some typical adjustment problems with them. While i-effect didn't accept the configuration data, a missing PTF from IBM caused a Telebox dialling problem with the acquisition of AS2. "We had to use a few tricks, to keep the processes going." Czerwonka said. But since the initial obstacles were overcome, thanks to the prompt support from menten GmbH "everything runs well again."

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Profile menten GmbH

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