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medac

Security for diverse Business Data
medac benefits from iCAS' flexibility and economic efficiency in audit-proof data storage

■ Industry:
Pharmaceutical

■ Background:
Due to strict compliance requirements for pharmaceutical companies, medac GmbH must store a wide range of application data for a long time in an audit-proof manner. Scalability and independence from storage hardware were key decision criteria in choosing a solution.

■ Challenges:
The high demands on security and scalability of the solution had to be met. Seamless integration into the company's IT landscape was essential. A commitment to dedicated storage infrastructure or manufacturers should be avoided.

■ Solution:
iTernity iCAS for audit-proof archiving, Veritas Enterprise Vault, Optimal Systems enaio (DMS), SAN storage of diverse manufacturers

"Many new projects are creating further data growth for the archive. The volume of data will explode, I'm sure. With iCAS, we are optimally prepared for this."

Arnim Schmid, Head of IT Operations

The Success at a Glance:

■ Scalable solution with flexible adaptability and without being locked in a specific storage infrastructure

■ Cost advantages through software intelligence versus hardware binding

■ Excellent cooperation between the partners' solutions

■ A central solution for various applications

Specific Requirements

The medac society for specialized clinical products is a German pharmaceutical company based in Hamburg, Wedel and Tornesch. medac focuses on therapeutics for the treatment of oncological, urological and autoimmune diseases and their associated symptoms.

At medac, two factors significantly shape the IT landscape in general as well as the handling and storage of company data in particular: In the last 15 years, the company has strongly grown and increased its number of employees to sixfold. Thus, a distinct dynamic and constant changes in the IT landscape are part of every day's working life. Adaptive solutions are practically a prerequisite in this environment.

As a global pharmaceutical company, medac also collaborates closely with international authorities to ensure compliance with all relevant regulations.

 The European Medicines Agency, for example, sets pharmaceutical companies definite requirements on how to de-velop drugs and which clinical research should be conducted in Europe. There is a continuous coordination with the authorities via the company's internal Research & Development department and Regulatory Affairs.

The authorities confirm the efficacy, safety and quality of medac products whenever new active ingredients are approved. For all internal processes related to the development and manufacture of drugs, it is essential to ensure the traceability and consistency of the resulting data.

Auditing Acceptability Required

In this respect, medac's internal quality management has demanded audit-proof archiving for the document management system (DMS). A company-wide DMS solution developed by Optimal Systems, enaio, is deployed to map medac's diverse organization processes from financial accounting to personnel administration and to product development.

The focal point of these activities is the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). These are mandatory descriptions of procedures, including the review of results and its documentation.

Changes in the relevant processes are documented accordingly at medac and then archived again as this is essential for fulfilling the company's compliance requirements. All project files from clinical research as well as from various internal processes are archived in a revision-proof manner via the DMS.

A second important data source for the archive comes from the e-mails and file server archiving. At medac, this is solved by Enterprise Vault, a product of Veritas.

The Solution

To ensure a secure and tamper-proof storage of this information and its long-term data management, the iTernity Compliant Archive Software (iCAS) was introduced at medac.

For business applications, iCAS is a storage destination that manages the application data with its retention periods in various archive areas (repositories). iCAS enables software-defined storage management, through which sensitive company data from a wide range of applications are secured future-proof and independent from the storage system used. iCAS' special functions ensure that this information is available at all times and that the specified retention periods are adhered to. iCAS acts as a central data management platform between the applications (DMS, e-mail management, etc.) and the storage infrastructure.

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In terms of storage, medac leverages a completely virtualized SAN storage. Based on this circumstance, iCAS turned out to be the perfect solution to fulfill medac's IT requirements.

"The fact that iCAS is certified for all of our applications as well as for our storage technology made our decision easy. All the solution partners involved also recommended iCAS. Particularly positive was that I did not have to coordinate different companies to implement it. The partners worked so well together that I only had to coordinate with one of them. The cooperation between the partners works great", summarizes Schmid, Head of IT Operations.

Currently, about 5 terabytes (TB) of archive data from various sources are accumulated per year, which are stored in different archive areas via iCAS. The multi-client capability of the iCAS system supports the differentiated handling of various information according to the current standards very well.

The Advantages

"One of the key advantages of iCAS for us is that it supports our virtual environment. This results in a very flexible expandability, as we can add various storage systems behind iCAS in future - and this without any system or manufacturer limitations. This allows us to easily update the overall solution when necessary and we are well-positioned for the future," explains Schmid.

"The simple and very clear administration of iCAS has pleased us very well too from the very beginning. The solution runs rather in the background in day-to-day life and it is very helpful that the

archive management can be handled quickly and uncomplicated when needed."*

iCAS' seamless integration into the company-wide backup concept, which includes backup of virtual servers via snapshots and the file-based backup, also shows the adaptability of the solution.

Prior to the decision, several possible solutions were evaluated, its technical quality and profitability were tested.

"iCAS was absolutely convincing in both criteria. The solution's approach as a software platform, its independence from the used storage hardware, and its excellent scalability were decisive points for us," recalls Schmid. Convincing references from other pharmaceutical companies rounded off the positive overall picture of iCAS.

Outlook on the Future

The connection and integration of the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) solution to the DMS and of the DMS to
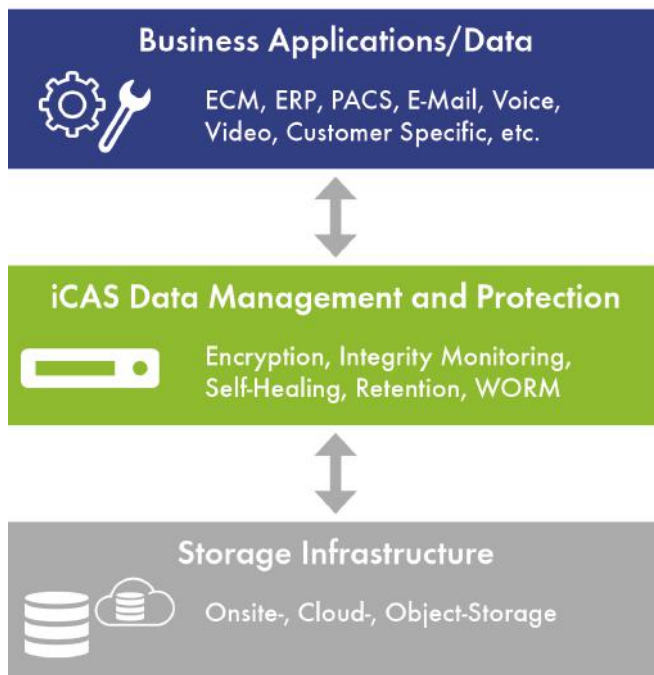
the central data archiving with iCAS are already on the agenda.

The head of the IT department is not worried about the future: *"Many new projects are creating further data growth for the archive. The volume of data will explode, I'm sure. With iCAS, we are optimally prepared for this."*

Regarding the prospective data migrations, the medac's IT department can also face it with confidence. When data migration is necessary, iCAS can transfer the archived data directly to the new storage. Thus, the business applications are not burdened with it and can always access the data without interruption.

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Future-Proof Solution for Data Integrity and Long-Term Archiving

Companies of all sectors with the most diverse demands on secure data storage rely on the software solution iCAS. All well-known ECM, ERP, DMS, PACS and e-mail systems are certified for iCAS and can be easily connected with it. iCAS helps you meet legal and internal compliance requirements, thereby minimizes your business risks significantly. As a hardware-independent solution, iCAS protects the integrity and security of your data in the long term - flexible, future-proof and cost-efficient!

Business Applications/Data
ECM, ERP, PACS, E-Mail, Voice, Video, Customer Specific, etc.

iCAS Data Management and Protection
Encryption, Integrity Monitoring, Self-Healing, Retention, WORM

Storage Infrastructure
Onsite-, Cloud-, Object-Storage

A Central Platform for Your Data Management

The software solution iCAS acts as a central management layer between your applications and the storage infrastructure. iCAS ensures data integrity and availability over long periods of time regardless of the hardware used. Thus, you can change your storage technologies and applications over time, nevertheless your stored data remains consistent and secure. Data migrations can be conducted by iCAS in the background without burdening the productive systems.

medac

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