



TCG UNITECH

AUDIT-PROOF ARCHIVING OF FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS

AUDIT SECURITY MADE EASY WITH SOFTWARE-DEFINED ARCHIVING

„With iCAS, physical paper filing has been completely eliminated. The solution works smoothly and stably in the background – without any effort for the end user and the IT team. That’s where we see the biggest advantage.“

Bernhard Schmiedinger,
Head of Information Management / Organization at TCG UNITECH

TCG UNITECH

Industry:

Automotive

Background:

In order to implement paperless storage of financially relevant documents (outgoing invoices and credit bills, delivery bills, purchase orders, purchase contracts, incoming invoices), and in the future also HR documents, TCG UNITECH was in search of an audit-proof archive that seamlessly integrates into the existing SAP landscape. This consisted of SAP systems and SAP Content Servers.

Challenges:

- Audit-proof archiving of financially relevant documents for 7, 10, or 30 years
- Replacing the paper archive
- Seamless integration into the existing IT infrastructure

Solution:

iTernity iCAS Middleware
SAP Systems & SAP Content Server
Invoice processing system Kofax

Image: TCG UNITECH is a market-leading manufacturer of light metal high pressure die casting, injection molding, pump systems and tooling.

THE SUCCESS AT A GLANCE



Ensuring audit security for financially relevant documents to meet legal requirements



No IT effort with the archive solution: iCAS operates as a silent worker in the background



Complete replacement of the paper archive & significantly faster & easier search for documents



Smooth interaction with the existing SAP landscape (SAP systems and SAP Content Server)

TCG UNITECH – PARTNER OF THE AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY

TCG UNITECH GmbH is one of the leading companies for light metal high pressure die casting, injection moulding, pump systems as well as tooling in the European automotive supply sector. As part of the GNUTTI CARLO GROUP, the company researches, develops and manufactures at five locations in Austria and China.

With almost 1,100 employees, TCG UNITECH pursues a strategy of continuous, gradual improvements with long-term positive effects on the competitiveness. The Austria-based company defines its business activities, among others, by the application of sophisticated technologies in all areas, including storage and archiving, to efficiently manufacture complex products that meet highest quality standards.

BACKGROUND: THE DESIRE FOR AUDIT SECURITY

The desire for audit-proof archiving of financially relevant documents and the associated replacement of the paper archive marked the beginning for the archive project for TCG UNITECH. The documents to be archived include outgoing invoices, outgoing credit bills, delivery bills, purchase orders, purchase contracts and incoming invoices. In total, there are approximately 13,000 documents to be archived each month. This data must be stored in an audit-proof manner according to strict regulations and must not be altered, manipulated, or deleted.

TCG UNITECH had previously relied on a combination of paper archiving (audit-proof) and digital archiving (not yet audit-proof). More than 80% of the documents to be archived were already in digital form, which is why the archive was only „theoretically“ complete. However, the digital archive documents had not yet been protected against changes and deletion. Since the goal was to eliminate the paper archive, the objective was to implement the archiving of all documents in a digital, audit-proof format to meet the legal requirements for the paperless storage of financially relevant documents. The retention periods conform to various legal regulations (e.g. BAO) and range from 7, 10, to 30 years, with the majority of documents archived for 10 years.

Bernhard Schmiedinger, Head of Information Technology and Organization, remembers the initial situation as follows:

“Initially, the documents were stored in the SAP Content Servers, but this storage was not audit-proof. To ensure this, either a completely new document management system (DMS) or an ‚archive middle layer‘ was required. Since the SAP Content Servers were already in operation and should continue to be used, data migration



Key data: TCG UNITECH GmbH

- Automotive
- Specialist for light metal high pressure die casting, injection moulding, pump systems & tools
- 1,092 employees

also needed to be considered. iTernity provided the best solution in this regard."

GOALS AND SOLUTION SELECTION

In addition to the desired audit security and compliance with legal requirements, TCG UNITECH focused on the following goals and conditions during the archive project:

- The existing IT systems, especially the established SAP systems and the SAP Content Server, should continue to be used (investment security).
- The archive system should be seamlessly integrated into the existing structures.
- The transfer of existing data to the archive system should proceed smoothly.
- The risk of losing existing SAP ArchiveLinks should be minimized.

The complexity of transferring existing SAP documents from the existing (non-audit-proof) digital archive to the new audit-proof archive posed one of the biggest challenges. For this purpose, custom SAP programs and SAP post-print programs were developed. This task was quickly resolved in collaboration with the IT partner and iTernity.

The goal setting and solution selection were primarily driven by the SAP department, with the finance department being informed about the project progress. Bernhard Schmiedinger, Head of Information Management and Organization, adds:

„The IT department of TCG UNITECH is divided into Infrastructure and SAP as well as into Applications and IT Project Management. The SAP department was responsible for the application and implementation of iCAS. The provision, basic configuration, and integration were handled by the Infrastructure Team“

During the selection process, DMS systems were also evaluated alongside the iCAS middleware. In everyday language, the terms DMS and archive are often used interchangeably. However, there are important differences in terms of goals and functionality. An archive securely stores data for a specific retention period, making it unchangeable. DMS serves various purposes - including storage - especially for day-to-day business operations. Audit security can only be ensured with an archiving solution.

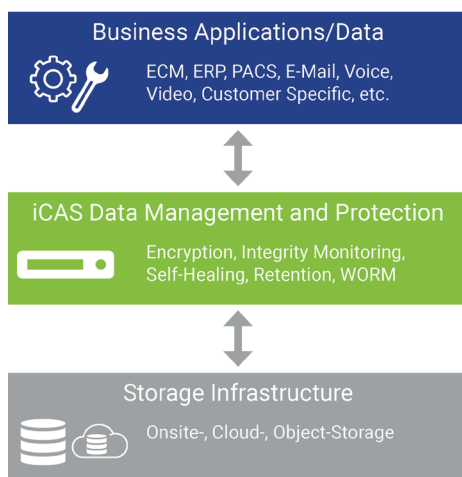
Bernhard Schmiedinger was primarily responsible for the solution selection and emphasizes the key reasons for choosing iCAS:

„Complete transparency and iCAS being fully integrated into SAP

were the main reasons for our choice. Furthermore, we didn't want to implement a DMS project and instead focused on audit security in connection with SAP and the SAP Content Server. iTernity provided a promising approach in this regard."

TODAY'S ARCHIVE PROCESS AND ITS BENEFITS

With the newly introduced middleware iCAS, the archive process at TCG UNITECH is as follows: Financial documents are scanned by the respective department and sent via email to the accounting department. There, they are processed, reviewed, and approved using the Kofax invoice processing system. After approval, the document is booked, securely archived with iCAS for the defined retention periods, and protected against manipulation, alteration, and deletion. The archive process is transparent for users. iCAS operates as a reliable worker in the background, remaining invisible to the end-users. The fact that iCAS - once implemented - only causes minimal administrative effort for the IT team has been highly appreciated at TCG UNITECH.



The functionality of iCAS:

As a software-defined solution, iCAS connects business applications, such as the SAP Content Server, with the storage infrastructure and is independent from both sides. The software solution runs on Windows Server and can be operated both physically and virtually. iCAS is based on standard hardware, compatible with on-premises, object, or cloud storage solutions, and ensures compliance, data integrity protection, and WORM (Write Once Read Many) storage. Due to its software-defined architecture, iCAS offers great flexibility and security, even in the face of future and unpredictable developments.

The benefits of iCAS were quickly visible to TCG UNITECH and were primarily in:

- A secure solution for the revision-secure archiving of documents and compliance with legal requirements for financial audits
- Stable and seamless operation of iCAS in the background without any extra effort
- The complete elimination of the paper archive
- Significantly easier and faster retrieval of archived documents
- Exceptional high performance from iCAS
- Low-maintenance and affordable solution
- SAP integration: iCAS was tested and certified for the SAP Content Server by iTernity

- As a KPMG-certified solution (e.g. EU-GDPR), iCAS provides the optimal foundation for legally compliant archiving

Since the implementation of iCAS, Bernhard Schmiedinger has been very satisfied, summarizing the advantages as follows:

„We have never had a performance issue with iCAS. The system has always run stably, and the price-performance ratio is also right. Even in the event of power outages, iCAS has automatically restarted and worked smoothly without intervention. iCAS reliably does what it is supposed to do: archive and protect data in an audit-proof manner.“

LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE - THE NEXT STEPS

In the future, other data for long-term audit-proof archiving will also be considered. TCG UNITECH plans to use the iCAS middleware for archiving transport documents and HR documents. Additionally, in 2024, TCG UNITECH aims to focus on GDPR compliance.

Bernhard Schmiedinger remains confident in the face of data growth, anticipating an annual data growth of 5-10% in the coming years.

Overall, Bernhard Schmiedinger is extremely pleased with iCAS and concludes:

„We are very satisfied with the iCAS middleware. It has been working smoothly since day one. For us, that's the most important thing at the end of the day.“

DATA ARCHIVING MADE SIMPLE

iCAS is a flexible middleware for retention management & WORM storage. The solution integrates perfectly into heterogeneous infrastructure landscapes. While you take care of your core business, iCAS reliably protects the integrity and availability of your data in the background.



HARDWARE INDEPENDENT

The archive intelligence is tied to the software-layer, not to the hardware



COMPLIANT

iCAS assures regulatory and compliance requirements



FLEXIBLE

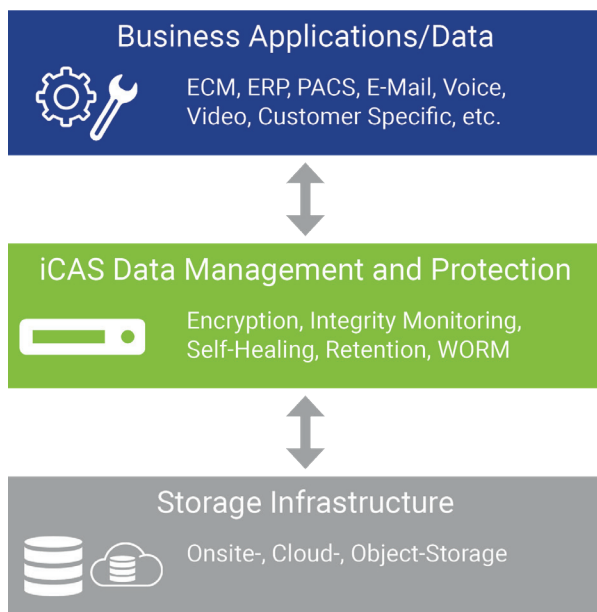
Middleware between your business application and the storage infrastructure



TAMPER-PROOF

iCAS provides WORM storage, encryption and retention management

THE CENTRAL PLATFORM FOR YOUR DATA MANAGEMENT



iCAS protects data integrity and availability, even if the underlying storage technology and hardware changes in the future. As a software-defined solution, iCAS lays the foundation for audit-proof data archiving and protects your investments in hardware, software and services.

iCAS adapts to your IT infrastructure and adds compliance, data integrity protection and WORM storage (Write Once Read Many) to your existing systems.