

Rehau - Case Study

looksoftware™

Critical issue

- ▶ Required a total user interface solution but did not have access to the source code as their ERP was developed using LANSAs

Solution

- ▶ Desktop integration, Client Access integration with Word and Excel documents
- ▶ Additional extensions to function including, exchange of data with standard office software, mail systems and user-specific cursor positioning for different screens with images

Results

- ▶ Utilizing 1700 newlook licenses worldwide
- ▶ Positive acceptance of revitalized internal ERP application from Rehau employees who are now using a very easy-to-use and appealing user interface
- ▶ Reduced training costs

Rehau leverages LANSAs + newlook to update their ERP application

Background

REHAU is a large German organisation employing 7,200 staff HQ in the city of the same name – Rehau, in the State of Bavaria! In 2002 the German REHAU AG + Co produced a turnover of over €964m.

Founded in 1948, REHAU is a global polymer system supplier developing, manufacturing and distributing a variety of thermoplastic and elastomere products.

It serves customers in a variety of industries including car manufacturing, structural engineering, building technology, electronics, road construction, civil engineering, sanitary and heating technology, medical engineering, furniture production and many more.

REHAU utilizes all common processes in polymer production including extrusion, injection moulding, thermoform and blow extrusion.

Challenge

In Germany, REHAU has used newlook for a number of years to modernize and extend their decentralised ERP system throughout 16 sales offices and 12 manufacturing plants. Ewald Gebhardt, a Departmental Manager in the sales organisation says, "newlook was ideally suited to modernize and extend our ERP application. We required a total user interface solution but did not have access to the original 5250 source code. newlook is easy to use and creates everything on-the-fly we fully support the functionality it has to offer".

Solution

The decentralised plants and sales offices use an internally developed application for ERP.

It was a green-screen solution and required a major update and modern user interface. Any solution that required to extend or interpret DDS and/or RPG source code couldn't be used, since the ERP system had been developed with the LANSAs development environment and no source was available.

Also, in the old application, certain key requirements couldn't be fulfilled with standard products like Client Access. For example, it wasn't possible to access Word or Excel documents with the click of the mouse!

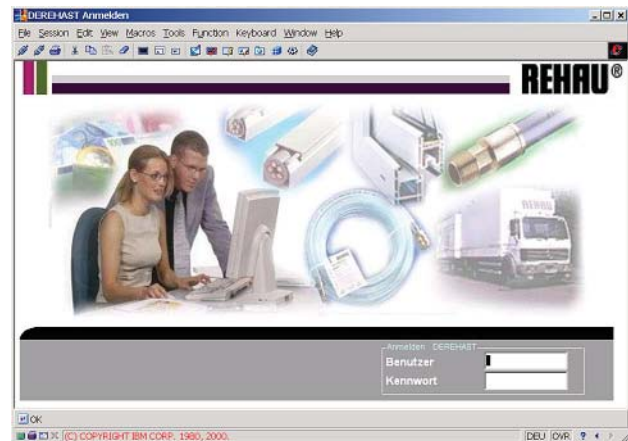
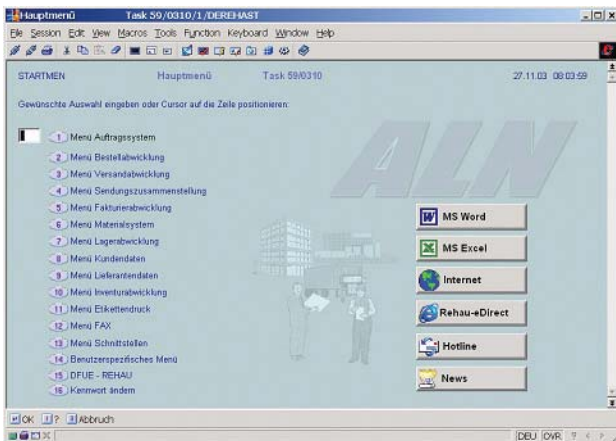
Another challenge for the German IT department, which supports the worldwide network of sales offices and manufacturing plants, was that they needed a product that analysed the existing 5250 data stream dynamically on-the-fly, one which was rules and filter-based and one which did not require manual intervention for over 5000 dialog masks.

Hence newlook was chosen as the ideal solution.

"..newlook is easy to use and creates everything on-the-fly, we fully support the functionality it has to offer."



REHAU®



Training and implementation were underway within a few weeks with the development team being able to use **newlook** effectively after only one week. Filters, rules and standard masks were defined so that all screens were displayed in an appealing manner.

Additional extensions of function followed later. These included, exchange of data with standard office software and mail systems, and user-specific cursor positioning for different screens with images.

The result is that REHAU utilises 1700 **newlook** licenses worldwide!

The acceptance of the ERP software, particularly amongst new employees, has been very positive and training has become easier.

When the decision was made to purchase **newlook**, it was still relatively unknown, at least in Germany. REHAU had learned of its existence through its close working relationship with LANSA.

As mentioned before, there was no comparable tool that was able to dynamically display 5250 masks in a graphic interface.

With all the other tools, the lower estimates for refacing were around 4 hours of revision time per mask.

That would have required a project of over 20,000 hours - or many months of effort.

In summary, REHAU feels it made a good choice with **newlook**. They have successfully revitalized a very important internal application which has a very easy-to-use and appealing user interface – all achieved at an acceptable development cost. Indeed, a very worthwhile return on investment!

“Rehau continues to use LANSA to develop and maintain their 5250 applications. newlook and LANSA together provide an excellent overall solution.”

Ewald Gebhardt, Departmental Manager

Contact us to arrange a live webcast and see the difference a dynamic architecture can make to your productivity.

