

The use of RealObjects PDFreactor® to create management reports, from a self-developed reporting application to Integrated Data Warehouse (in German: Integrierter Datenhaushalt - IDH) for the Sparkasse Financial Group

About Finanz Informatik

Finanz Informatik, headquartered in Frankfurt am Main, is the central IT service provider of Sparkasse Finance Group. Its customers include 376 Sparkasse savings banks, six state banks, DekaBank, eight state Landesbausparkasse state building societies, public sector insurers and further companies within the Sparkasse Finance Group and the financial sector.

Finanz Informatik offers a complete IT service - from application development through infrastructure and data center operations to consultancy, training and support. In OSPLus the company is now providing one of the leading overall banking systems for the German market.

Finanz Informatik is undertaking the service for 117 million bank accounts; more than 141 billion technical transactions are executed on the computers and systems every year. As at 30.6.2020 the company employed 3,833 members of staff and the sales revenue was approximately 2.1 billion Euros together with the subsidiaries.

Subsidiaries such as Finanz Informatik Technologie Service, Finanz Informatik Solutions Plus, inasys and finally Star Finanz supplement the Finanz Informatik IT portfolio with the services they offer.

Initial Situation

The reporting application 'IDH-Reporting' for integrated data warehousing (IDH) provides the savings banks and state banks in Germany with a comprehensive software solution in the form of an individual development for the creation of reports and analyses from its IDH databases. Self-development means that IDH-Reporting is designed precisely for the specific needs of the savings banks and state banks, providing a wide functional range and great flexibility and avoiding the overheads of standard market tools with the irrelevant functions they include. With this tool our clients now have the opportunity to use standardized reports and queries, carry out analyses and also undertake individual modifications to create their own reports and retrievals.

Challenges

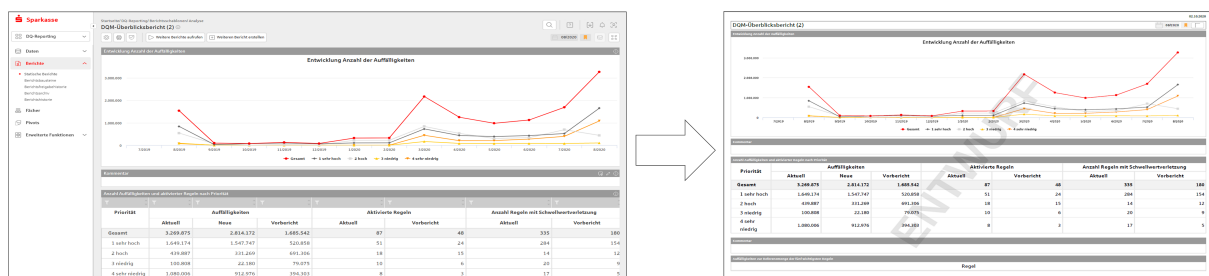
In the age of digitalization and the paperless office there remains the regulatory obligation to permanently archive certain results in order to track decisions and to visualize and in some cases also print content for the management and for committees. This not only requires the creation of reports in PDF format but also the possibility of exporting and importing report contents to and from PowerPoint using the Finanz Informatik committee reporting plugin. The documents that are created must be of high quality and optically attractive in order to satisfy the exacting standards of the management and the committees.

A further challenge is the permanent archiving of IDH retrievals and annotated analysis results. Persisted PDF documentation is required here also in order to fulfil the regulatory requirements in relation to assurance and traceability. These are generally results in table form that can often be large.

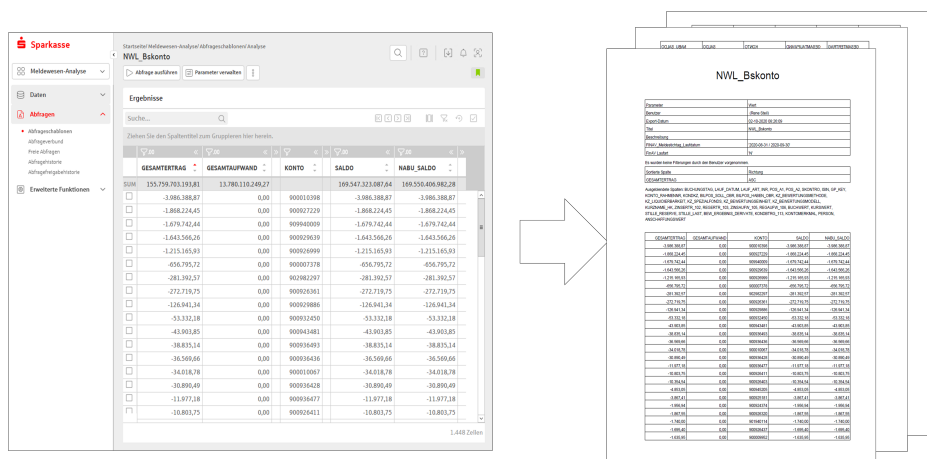
Solution

Various possible solutions were investigated for the creation of PDF documents in order to satisfy the tasks in the above challenge. Taking into account the regulatory requirements in relation to archiving in PDF/A format RealObjects PDFReactor® proved to be the most suitable tool. PDFReactor® distinguished itself with 1:1 reproduction of the browser UI in the PDF, even with more complex HTML content. Server-side printing without dedicated UI software such as a headless browser means that PDFReactor® is excellent for use in server landscapes that are highly optimized with high level protective measures.

Example: 'Creating a print-out of reports'



Example: 'Creating a print-out of results tables'



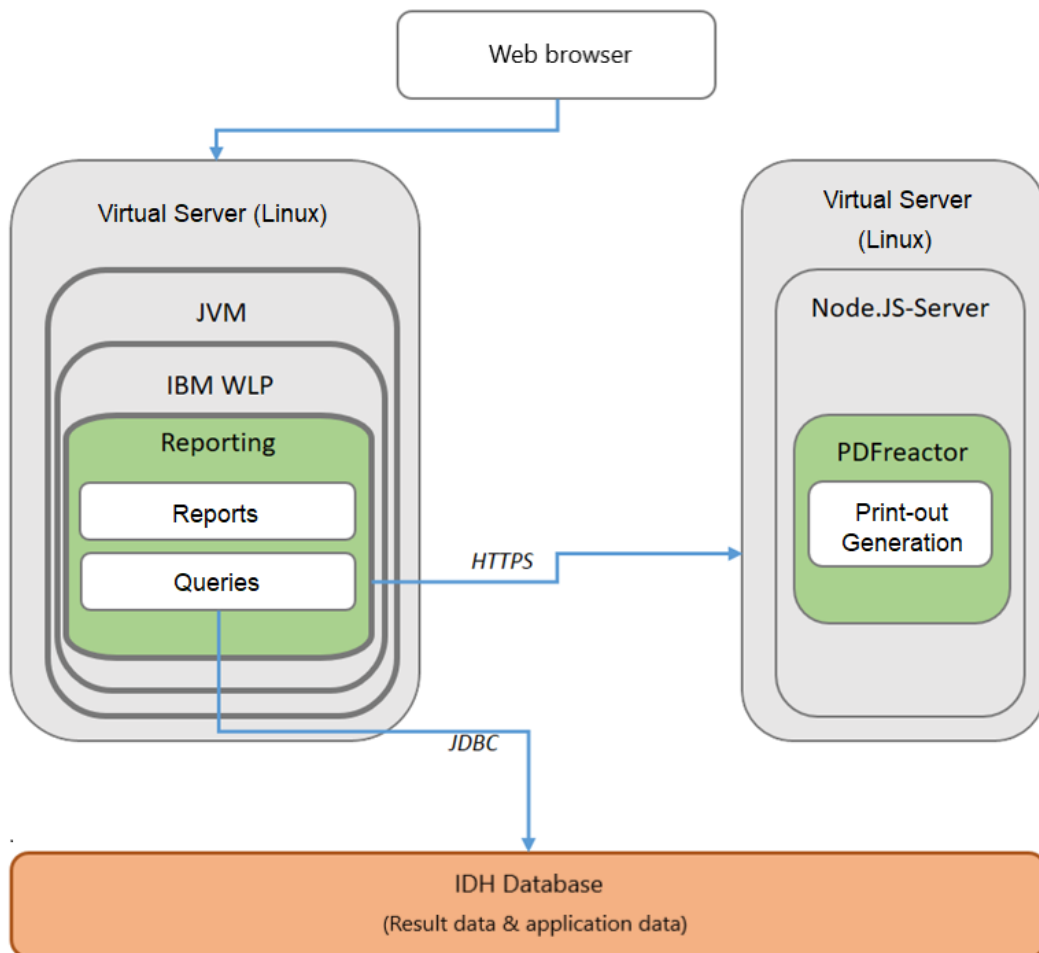
Client Statements

René Steil, Head of the IDH-Reporting Department at Finanz Informatik: *"In RealObjects and the product PDFReactor® we have found a reliable market partner for our savings banks and state banks in Germany. This product runs reliably and is stable in production. It fulfils the strict regulatory requirements and the high demands for qualitatively high-grade PDF creation, the necessary flexibility for reporting to committees and also the requirements for orderly PDF archiving in the format PDF/A. We use a PDFReactor Corporate Application License for this purpose and this covers our existing and future IDH Server infrastructure, be it physical or virtual, without limitations."*

Marc Bober, Head of IDH-Reporting development: *"PDFreactor® by RealObjects resolves the challenges of flexible PDF creation in a technically reliable and easily adaptable manner and adjusts very well to a system landscape that takes regulatory requirements into account."*

Integration

In several different processes within IDH-Reporting the need and the technical requirement exist to create and archive interim and final results. RealObjects PDFreactor® is integrated in a modular way into IDH-Reporting as a library. The HTML that needs to be printed is prepared accordingly using a NodeJS server and reworked for printing.



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