SAP Spool: Output Optimization through complete output management for SAP

The challenge

In Sto AG’s 250 locations worldwide, certain print orders from SAP transactions (orders with three-layer full color adhesive labels) need to be sent out on neutral labels, complete and in order. This task cannot be carried out in standard SAP. Additionally, Sto strives for a globally centralized print editing for printing distributed to different locations. This calls for the capacity for bar codes and Unicode, as well as all printer-specific properties (such as paper tray control).

Sto AG maintains a central SAP system for all its subsidiaries and locations in Stühlingen, Germany. All branches’ SAP orders are collected and processed in the centralized SAP system.

If an SAP order calls for color development, special supporting documents are necessary for further processing.

Components of a print order for an SAP order with full-color labels:

- SAP SmartForm “Color job” (SAPOTF format)
- “Labels with Bar Codes” (PDF format, created in SAP)
- “Full-Color Labels” (PDF format created externally with Adobe InDesign)

Color laser printers of the type Kyocera C5350DN are used in these locations, where around 2,000 SAP print jobs (about 6,000 sheets) are issued daily.

The goal is the output of these documents to every decentralized location, in order, complete, and process-secure, onto neutral labels. Additionally, machine-neutral processing and output in true colors are essential.

The Solution: An Output Management System

PLOSSYS® netdome connects all applications with all output channels. It takes over data processing, spooling and control of output channels. The OMS processes all data formats from all connected business uses (ERP, host systems, web uses, Windows® and Office, digital archive, DMS, PLM and CAD) and ensures a smooth, optimally controlled output on all channels. It also offers a broad functionality regarding all aspects of the print infrastructure and print processes.

Issue of SAP orders with full-color labels with PLOSSYS netdome

PLOSSYS netdome was installed on a virtual server as central output management for the SAP system.

The SAP system now directs all orders for full-color labels with all supporting documents from Sto’s 250 branches to PLOSSYS netdome. There the data is transformed into a printable format (PCL or Postscript).
Device-specific properties (such as paper tray control, duplex print, end processing, and secure and pickup-printing) are available. An output in true colors is guaranteed. Special adjustments don’t need to be made in SAP.

**Optimized Output of the entire SAP spool with PLOSSYS netdome**

All SAP printer queues are set up just once – with the help of automated procedures – centrally in the print management PLOSSYS netdome, and coupled with the SAP system via certified interfaces. This way the complete SAP spool data stream is directed to PLOSSYS netdome. This takes the burden off the SAP system, as the print processing is taken over by PLOSSYS netdome. Furthermore, the load to the previously used “small” Windows spool server is lightened or even removed completely. Administration and monitoring are conducted centrally.

Large, global businesses can use several PLOSSYS netdome print servers to ensure operation failure safety in load balancing and failover network.

**In Summary: What was achieved?**

- Output of SAP orders with full-color labels, complete and in order, at the press of a button
- Output of dynamic and complex content on neutral labels
- Print with true color and layout
- Optimal device control with all device-specific properties
- Bar code/Unicode printing on all devices
- Process transparency in printing: feedback in the SAP system over order status to finished paper
- Central monitoring over all jobs and devices
- Central management of all printers and output channels (email, PDF, etc.)
- Form/print programs: just one form is now needed for all print models
- Investment protection through SAP-certified solutions

**Phillip Bellhäuser,**
**Head of IT Basis und Infrastructure at Sto AG:**

“The demands for print output could not be solved to our satisfaction with SAP tools. SEAL Systems took care of that within two days using PLOSSYS netdome as SAP-certified standard product, and the result exceeded our expectations. We especially liked that SEAL Systems AG also offers its comprehensive solution unitized for certain areas of use and requirements for the entire company. This way we could first decide on a small solution that exactly met our needs. At the moment we are looking into further options from SEAL Systems for a sensible expansion of this SAP spool solution.”

**Dieter Reuter,**
**Projekt-Consultant for SEAL Systems:**

“Many problems and special requirements in SAP spool processing can be solved through a uniform SAP output management; this way output is much easier and optimized for distribution location printing. The mutual collaboration with Sto AG in this project was exceedingly congenial and productive.”

The German company Sto AG, in Stühlingen, Baden-Württemburg, is a leading international manufacturer of paints, plasters, enamels and coating systems as well as thermal insulation systems. It also specializes in concrete repair, floor coatings, and acoustic and hanging facade systems. More than 1,000 different products and systems are used for facade insulation, acoustic optimization, concrete repair, and surface coating for both old and new buildings.

In 2012 Sto AG maintains around 4,700 employees in 30 subsidiaries worldwide.

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