Press Release

The Right Way: Change Architecture, Decommission Legacy Systems, Implement SAP S/4HANA

DSAG Annual Congress 2018: Swiss specialist for the decommissioning of legacy systems presents model architecture for IT environments of the future

Kreuzlingen, 10 October 2018 – Existing SAP customers must migrate to the new SAP S/4HANA software generation by 2025. The goal is to create an agile application landscape that will help them master the challenges of digitisation. For legal reasons in particular – keyword GDPR - the requirement at data level is stability, not agility. This is the reason why existing SAP customers sometimes continue to operate legacy systems for decades. To reconcile agility and stability, a different architecture is needed in the application landscape that separates legacy data and documents from the agile apps of the future. Legacy systems can thus be decommissioned and new software generations can be kept sustainably lean and agile. The Swiss Data Migration Services (DMS) AG will be demonstrating how this works at its booth B6 at the DSAG Annual Congress 2018 from 16 to 18 October in Leipzig.

Data from enterprise applications always stands in a business context that, for legal reasons, must be preserved together with the data for the period of the legally binding retention periods. Moreover, this business context contains important additional information, such as the history and quality of a business relationship with a customer or supplier, which can also be valuable for the respective company in years to come. At the data level, agility is less important than stability. That's why every time you migrate to new generations of software - both inside and outside SAP - large volumes of data accumulate in your data centres, which are stored and maintained together with legacy applications due to the business context - sometimes for many decades and at considerable cost.

The right approach - a question of architecture

Solving this contradiction is a question of the right architecture – and a system-independent environment for data, documents and their business context, which are no longer needed in the operative systems, is the key. Such an environment provides the necessary stability at data level. At the same time, it increases both compliance and IT security. This is because, unlike many legacy systems, it can be further patched and protected. It also allows the entire lifecycle of legacy data and documents to be seamlessly managed at the level of individual data records and documents using retention management functionalities. This explicitly includes the targeted deletion of data and documents - one of the essential requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The legacy applications can be shut down, resulting in operational savings of up to 80 percent – and sometimes even more – compared to their continued operation.

But more importantly, when business data and documents are outsourced to this environment as soon as they are no longer needed, current applications and systems remain lean and agile over the long run. In general, operational data volumes can be reduced by 50 to 75 percent. Any unnecessary ballast is thus avoided. This fundamental change in IT architecture – the separation of application and data levels – is also the ideal prerequisite and preparation for the upcoming migration to SAP S/4HANA.

Save time, save money, become agile

"It may seem that there is still much time until 2025. But the truth is that the number of migration experts in German-speaking countries is limited. Particularly for large SAP landscapes, the migration effort quickly adds up to several thousand man-days. With 10,000 migration projects expected in Germany, a bottleneck is to be expected," emphasizes Thomas Failer, founder of Data Migration Services AG. "Whoever wants to win the race against time and resource scarcity should set the course today. With the help of a modern, system-independent platform for the lifecycle management of legacy data and documents, the application landscape can be massively streamlined and simplified. This is the pole position for the migration to SAP S/4HANA".

If data and content that is no longer required is continuously transferred from the operative applications to a legally compliant, system-independent platform, the company's IT becomes significantly more agile and can support a wide variety of

business scenarios with very little effort: acquisition and sale of companies and business units, which always mean the import and export of business data and documents; the consolidation of heterogeneous application landscapes into central systems such as SAP; the consolidation of globally distributed data centres to central sites; or the improvement of data quality, one of the essential requirements for digital business models.

At DSAG Annual Congress 2018: DMS AG presents JiVS

DMS AG has developed the Java-based platform JiVS particularly for agile business and application scenarios. This features the ability to store data from decommissioned legacy systems as well as the respective documents in their business context in a legally compliant manner. JiVS is thus a core element of an agile application landscape in companies.

JiVS was developed by Data Migration Services AG, founded in 1996 and headquartered in Kreuzlingen, Switzerland. The customer base of the globally active provider includes renowned companies such as ABB, ABInBev, ALSTOM, Lafarge Holcim, Mercedes, General Electric or, in Germany, Commerzbank and Deutsche Telekom.

At the DSAG Annual Congress 2018, the provider will present the JiVS platform at its booth B6.

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Data Migration Services AG
Data Migration Services AG, based in Kreuzlingen, has provided data migration and management services since its foundation in 1996. The JiVS platform, enabling the independent management of the entire lifecycle of business data systems and applications, is the centrepiece of this service platform. The range of services offered by the JiVS platform includes migration, historicisation and the provision of data and information. The historicisation and subsequent decommissioning of legacy systems, in particular, have generated cost savings and created more flexibility and agility for the company's numerous customers, which include ABB, ABInBev, ALSTOM, Mercedes, General Electric, Commerzbank and Deutsche Telekom. You can find out more about the company and its data solutions at www.jivs.com.