



Photo: Austrian State Archives

Digital long-term archive for Austria

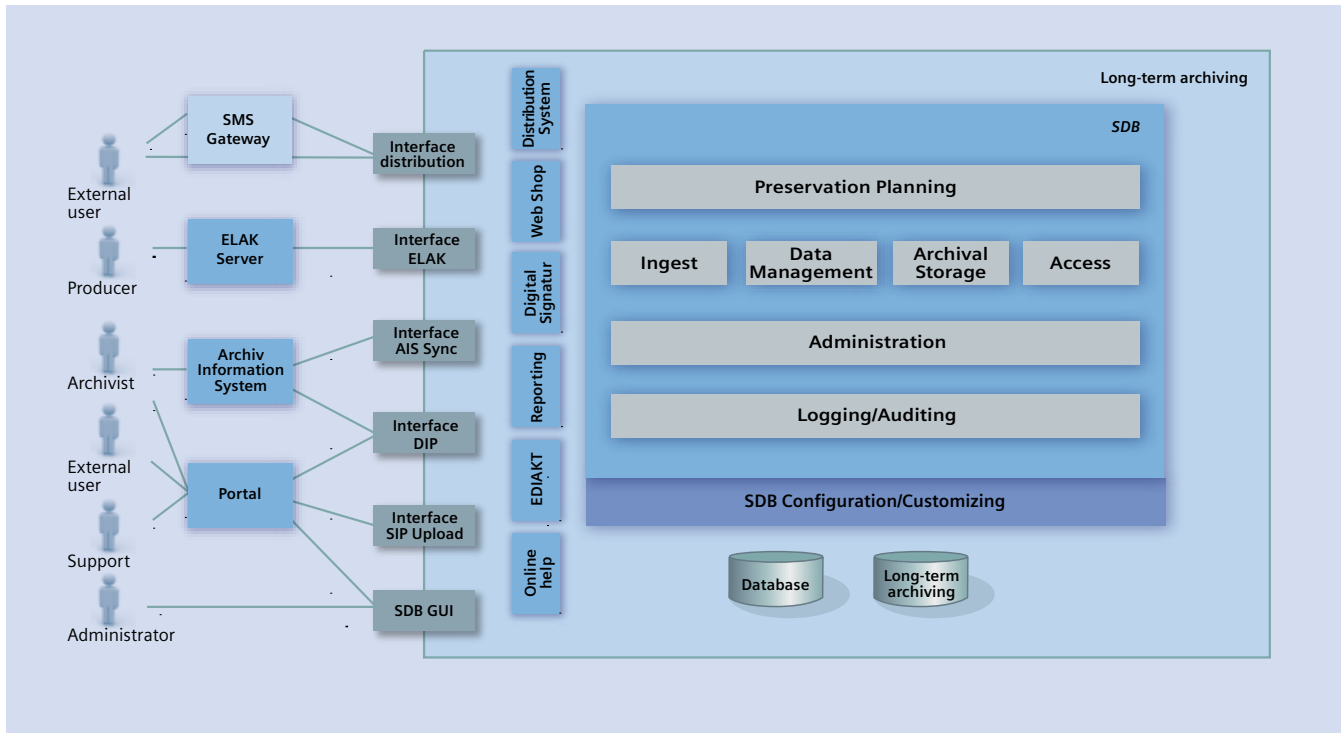
The Austrian State Archives will be equipped with an electronic long-term archive for permanent archiving of digital data.

To be able to use the electronic file throughout the country in the Austrian Federal Administration professional archiving is a must. In accordance with the Bundesarchivgesetz (Federal Act on the Safekeeping, Storage and Use of Archival Holdings of the Federal Government), the Austrian State Archives not only are responsible for selecting, taking over and archiving of the electronic original document but also for the long-term (= eternal) readability of data. For this purpose we have installed a storage system on two locations and use software based on the Open Archival Information System (OAIS) reference model. For reasons of cost efficiency the Austrian Federal Chancellery has purchased a general license enabling all Austrian provinces, cities, communities and other public authorities to use this archive solution without having to pay license fees all over again.

Austrian State Archives

The Austrian State Archives are among the most important archives worldwide. As the prime keepers of the archival heritage they store, make available for use and protect more than 1000 years of Austrian history and valuable cultural heritage of pan-European importance. The Austrian State Archives are the central archives for the ministries and the supreme bodies of the Republic of Austria. In their historical departments they are also the prime keepers of the archival heritage of the central authorities of the Habsburg Empire, the supreme bodies of the Holy Roman Empire and, in addition, the owners of an extensive collection of acts and charters of the Babenbergs and Habsburgs, which dates back as far as 816.





The project

Siemens IT Solutions and Services has been commissioned to supply a software solution within a period of 12 months which will provide for the permanent preservation of electronic data. Moreover, also the operational set-up, including the provisioning of ready-for-operation hardware and technical infrastructure, upgrading after 60 months and the establishment of a web shop are part of the contract. Siemens will support the resulting solution for a period of 8 years.

On account of the high security requirements the system will be established on two locations: the main location is the new Siemens data center in Vienna and the back-up location is the high security data center of the federal government at St. Johann in Pongau.

The Java-based archive software SDB will be supplied by Siemens in cooperation with the English archive specialists Tessella plc. The modular software is based on the Open Archival Information System (OAIS) reference model, originally developed by NASA, and follows the concept of a service-oriented architecture (SOA). By taking this approach, individual system components can be replaced without impairing the whole system.

As a general contractor Siemens is responsible for overall project management, provides the analysis team and Austria-specific extensions, such as the interface with the electronic file or the web shop, and takes care of the integration of the complete solution into the system landscape of the Austrian State Archives.

Technical specifications

- Operating systems: Linux (Red Hat Enterprise Linux) and Microsoft Server 2008
- Database: Oracle under Linux in a VMware cluster
- Application servers: JBoss under Windows in a VMware cluster
- Web server: Apache Tomcat under Linux in VMware

Storage itself is performed on servers of the EMC Centera family. These servers save data redundantly and in this way guarantee high error resistance within one single storing system without having to switch to the other location. Thus many of the requirements of digital long-term archiving are met just by using the right storage system. In addition to the multi-redundant storage system, storage of data on magnetic tapes will be provided for as well. In this way it can be ensured that one of the key requirements of Austrian State Archives will be met: not to lose even one single document.

Contact:

Austrian Federal Chancellery
 Dipl.Ing. Michael M. Freitter
 Ballhausplatz 2
 1014 Vienna
 michael.freitter@bka.gv.at
 http://www.bka.gv.at

Austrian State Archives
 Stv. GD Hofrat Dr. Manfred Fink
 Nottendorfer Gasse 2
 1030 Vienna
 manfred.fink@oesta.gv.at
 http://www.oesta.gv.at

Siemens AG Österreich

Siemens IT Solutions and Services
 Mag. Alexander Leiningen-Westerburg
 Siemensstraße 92
 1210 Vienna
 alexander.leiningen-westerburg@siemens.com
 http://www.siemens.at/it-solutions