



BayernLB consolidates with IBM Rational Developer for System z software.

Overview

■ **Challenge**

One of the largest banks in Germany, BayernLB needed to consolidate its software development environment to better support the organization's central applications.

■ **Solution**

The bank deployed IBM Rational Developer for System z software to integrate its development environments and help developers do more, faster.

■ **Key Benefits**

BayernLB can now enable its developers to work in multiple environments without disruption or changing to different development tools, thereby helping to increase productivity and enhance product quality.

The principal bank of Bavaria and the region's central savings bank, Bayerische Landesbank (BayernLB) is one of Germany's leading financial institutions. The organization works with state and local customers, financial institutions, midsize and large businesses, and real estate customers within Germany and abroad. Along with Landesbausparkasse (LBS Bayern), BayernLB devotes much of its efforts to helping customers save money for home purchases in Bavaria, and with BayernLabo, the bank helps fund residential and city building.

BayernLB boasts a balance sheet total of €340.9 billion and employs 9,750 people worldwide.

Consolidating centralized and decentralized environments

The bank's department for organization and computer science developed BayernLB's host applications within two toolsets: Maestro II (the predominant tool) and Time Sharing Option/Interactive System Productivity Facility (TSO/ISPF). When the bank began using Maestro II and its predecessor, Maestro I, it became one of the first banking houses to be equipped with a decentralized development platform. The problem was that Maestro II was no longer going to be supported by its vendor. If the bank wanted to continue working with a decentralized development platform and continue offering its designers a modern environment, it needed to find a new tool for central programming in the PL/I environment.

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Key Components

Software

- IBM AIX
- IBM Rational Developer for System z
- IBM System z Debug Tool
- IBM WebSphere Application Developer
- IBM WebSphere MQSeries
- IBM z/OS

Hardware

- IBM System z

Having had positive experiences using IBM WebSphere® Application Developer software to develop its Java™ applications, BayernLB explored an IBM solution to help consolidate its centralized and decentralized development tooling. The bank chose IBM Rational® Developer for System z software to develop and test its multilanguage applications with just one tool. Based on the open source and widely distributed Eclipse framework, Rational Developer for System z makes it possible to exploit individual designers' skills more effectively because it allows development within both centralized and decentralized environments.

Putting it together with the SCM system

In a one-year project, BayernLB implemented Rational Developer for System z. To facilitate the security-rich interaction during development with the bank's software configuration management (SCM) system, BayernLB worked with IBM Business Partner QGroup to develop a plug-in to interact with its SCM system. Rational Developer for System z supports designers during programming by providing a content assistant, a context-sensitive language aid and a code editor that works with syntax highlighting.

“With IBM Rational Developer for System z, we are equipped with a tool that reproduces our entire architecture and development cycles.”

—Thomas Zierer, senior architect, BayernLB

Approximately 130 BayernLB designers use the IBM Rational Developer for System z application. They also use the IBM System z™ Debug Tool as a remote-edit-compile-debug (RECD) solution for the bank's IBM z/OS® operating system, which means that all necessary resources are located on the System z platform but are developed with the client software. The source code for all programs is available in the SCM system. “With IBM Rational Developer for System z, we are equipped with a tool that reproduces our entire architecture and development cycles,” notes Thomas Zierer, senior architect responsible for the introduction of Rational Developer for System z into the corporate services department at BayernLB.

Enabling trouble-free transfers

To communicate with the z/OS host from the WebSphere Application Server environment, the bank's software designers program their Web client applications to transfer information under the IBM AIX® operating system via IBM WebSphere MQSeries® software. The host components of Rational Developer for System z, as well as designers' own additions, help ensure that transfers between client and mainframe are trouble free. In addition, they help guarantee the optimal trial conditions on the System z platform. Various programming languages such as HTML, Java or PL/I only allow processing with a single development environment without any media disruptions. The Rational application is designed to enable disruption-free processing with multiple environments.

Thomas Zierer sees the key advantage from the designer's perspective in debugging: "The IBM Rational Developer for System z [application] makes end-to-end debugging possible for us, regardless of the platform. That alone eases the programming for us immensely."

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For more information

To learn more about IBM Rational Developer for System z software, contact your IBM representative or IBM Business Partner, or visit:

ibm.com/software/awdtools/rdz

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