



# Risk-Free Migration

## Management Summary

The Ministry of Finance in the federal state of Rhineland-Palatinate ventured into un-chartered waters when it migrated its client/server system for financial resource management to a browser-capable application. The two consulting partners BGS Systemplanung and IPSWAYS adopted an entirely new approach for this project and, for the first time, migrated the existing Microsoft Access databases and application logic automatically.

And with resounding success. Compared with conventional solutions, the new concept significantly cuts costs and reduces the risk of errors in Access migrations. In no time at all, the Ministry of Finance was working with a powerful Microsoft .NET application, including new web services for e-payment, which reduces the total cost of ownership (TCO) and can be scaled as required. A further bonus is that the migration tool developed for this purpose can be used effectively by other companies for similar projects.

## Complex Microsoft Access System

With the task at hand clear in everyone's mind, namely to migrate the financial resource management application used by some 130 departments from a complex client/server to a web-based solution, the Landesbetrieb für Daten und Information (LDI), which also provides the central server, assumed responsibility for managing the project. But the way ahead was not a smooth one. With a conventional solution, the risk of errors occurring would be quite considerable due to the extremely complex nature of the Microsoft Access application to be migrated.

To minimize these risks, the Ministry of Finance and LDI broke new territory. They decided in favor of a new approach proposed by the two Mainz-based companies BGS Systemplanung and IPSWAYS, which involved migrating the source code automatically. BGS contributed its migration tools and experience from other projects and, as general contractor, assumed overall responsibility for the project. IPSWAYS had already proven its expertise with .NET in a project for the Police department of the federal state of Rhineland-Palatinate.

### Corporate profile

#### IPSWAYS

is an independent software and consulting firm that develops systems to support mission-critical business processes.

We aim to provide our customers with packaged solutions tailored to their specific requirements.

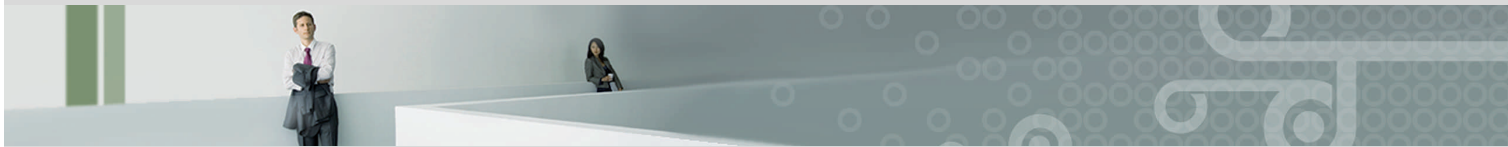
Consulting is often the first step towards creating a customized solution design.

Important factors to be considered here include costs versus benefits and deploying technologies intelligently.

We boast many years of project-based experience in analysis and design, development, integration, and migration, backed up by our expertise with Java Enterprise Edition (JEE), Microsoft .NET and Business Intelligence (Cognos).

#### BGS Systemplanung AG

BGS Systemplanung is an IT consultancy that focuses on solutions for public authorities (Federal Armed Forces, state and federal ministries, local authorities, corporate media) and financial service providers. In addition to this industry-specific expertise, BGS also offers consulting services on a wide range of IT-related topics and develops technology solutions in the key areas of security and software reengineering.



**Benefits at a glance**

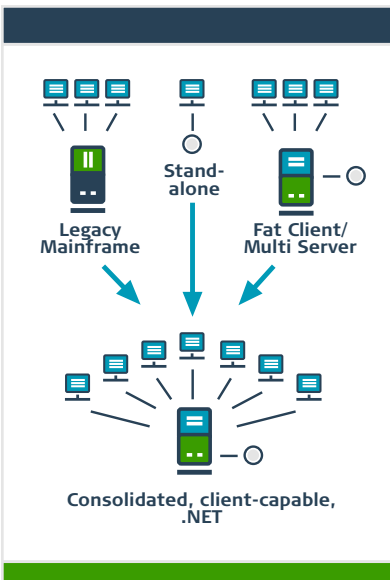
- Automated source code migration for Microsoft Access and VBA systems
- Low process-related risk
- Extremely low cost
- Speedy implementation

### Low risk, low cost

Although uncommon for Microsoft products, the way in which the source code migration was handled satisfied those in charge because of the low process-related risk, and not least by the incredibly low cost involved. "If we had commissioned developers to rewrite our Access databases, the costs and risk of errors occurring would have been considerably higher" explained Matthias Bongarth, Managing Director of LDI. "The technical risk assessment and the prototype presented by BGS and IPSWAYS left no doubt in our minds that their new concept would be successful". After an intensive preparatory phase, the two development partners began with the migration itself, which involved automated modifications to the existing source code and compiling the migrated source code on the new .NET platform. Working in tandem with each other, BGS applied its know-how and migration tools, while IPSWAYS developed the target .NET architecture for the migrated source code.

### Pioneering spirit

The pioneering spirit of the project paid off for all those involved. The Ministry of Finance can derive considerable benefit from the migrated application, which will ultimately be used by several thousand users. In addition to improved user support and simplified data exchange between the various departments, a reduction in TCO is also anticipated. Thanks to its extreme scalability, the .NET platform is flexible enough to respond to changing requirements.



This project has also given birth to an entirely new type of migration tool, which is capable of migrating virtually any Microsoft Access and VBA application automatically and with a low process-related risk. And all of that at surprisingly low cost. "Although the approach was a very unusual one, we put our faith in the combined expertise of the two development partners" says Thomas Froitzheim, Service Line Application Development at Microsoft, which looked after the quality assurance side of the migration project. "We were thoroughly satisfied. The project has also given rise to a migration tool that can be used by companies of all sizes and from all sectors of industry to help significantly reduce the outlay and risk of errors in similar projects".