

RaDIS - a Specification Management System



Project Success Story: An ongoing success story about collaboration. By Xavo and BAT.



„The greatest strength of RaDIS is its intuitive usability. This is not natural for such a complex system. Even the excellent service of Xavo has contributed to the broad acceptance of the system.“

Dr. Andreas Kiefer
Product Concepts & Services Manager
British American Tobacco (Germany)

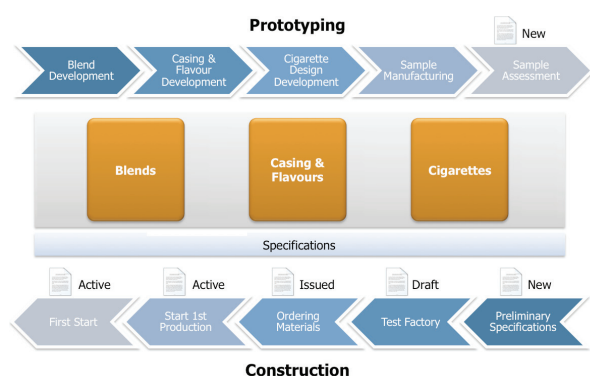
Stepping into a new millennium BAT's (British American Tobacco, Germany) demand surfaced striving for a replacement of their existing excel solution for specification management with a sophisticated IT system. The complexity as well as diversity of products turned previous MOs (using excel sheets with filesizes beyond 20 MB) out to be increasingly difficult.

Xavo, being a proven long-term partner for BAT, appreciated for its next-door-locality and technological expertise, the search for an optimal serviceprovider was a short one. BAT and Xavo joined efforts in order to create the specification for a solution yet to be developed.

Development of the Solution

The first main-objective was porting the excel-based solution to a database-driven IT system, thereby optimizing collaborative efforts in product development. An initial analysis

although already led to many ideas and demands for further stages of development.



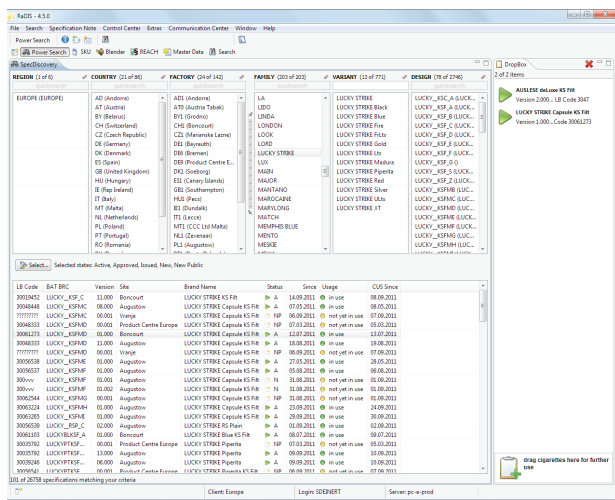
Product development cycle covered by RaDIS

At that time there was no ample PLM product, which would have been able to meet the requirements. Today RaDIS has arrived at a degree of maturity that rivals even established products. Back then web-based-applications were often seen as a supposedly optimal

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solution, but the team quickly realized, that a browser application will not meet a user's needs for both usability and flexibility. Therefore Xavo emphasized the implementation of the Eclipse Rich Client Platform (RCP). A decision that turned out to be crucial for the immense success of this solution, as confirmed by many. Only the RCP with its concept of Perspectives and Views was able to provide such a highly complex system for highly diverse target audiences.

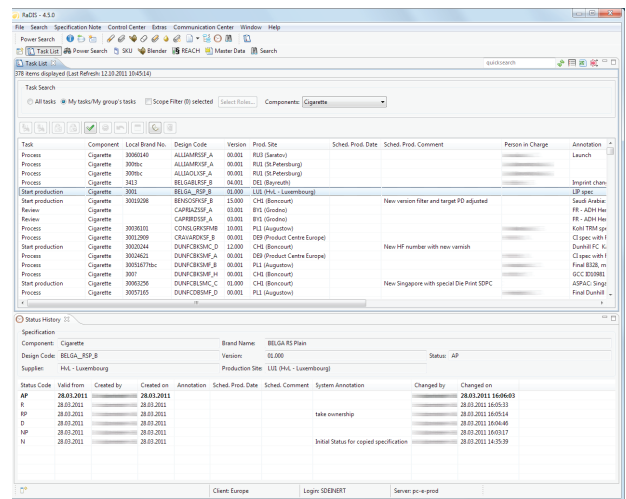
The first version of the Specification Manager already contained sophisticated rights-management and security features. Thanks to consistent transactional design and a very detailed policy management all demands regarding inter-factory privacy policies can be met without unnecessarily compromising collaborative efforts. For the application had to be able to process highly complex and interconnected product parameters, a highly specialized formula editor had to be developed.



RaDIS Power Search was optimized for performance. With every click result-changes are shown in real-time.

Already in the early stages this first version of RaDIS turned out to be an essential element of the product development process and therefore assured the most up-to-date data quality for all sites.

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The TaskList is the collaborative hub, coordinating every workflow-process.

The Implementation

Looking back at many years of empiric expertise when it comes to database development, Xavo's development team at first lacked experience regarding the Eclipse Platform. Nevertheless the team rose to that challenge and even complex proprietary projects such as a generic export component or the formula editor mentioned above were no longer a problem.

Go-live - The begin of a success story

In June 2004 the first version of RaDIS went live. Firstly being a replacement for the existing excel solution, the system used today was improved by about 20 steps of development. Many employees of BAT and Xavo contributed to a system which until now remains unrivaled.

This way over 300 users in Europe have access to a user-friendly and reliable IT System for their work in product development and compliance management. The system today coordinates numerous activities concerning product-development. It hereby provides employees complying with regulatory compliance demands during development stages, providing assistance with calculation of REACH-Relevance and the reportings for designated authorities.

Via the SAP APO interface the system takes target figures into consideration and points out economical aspects regarding changes in specification parameters.

Supplier Item	Item Description	Endmaterial	Endmaterial in EU	SKU Type	Cigarette Design	Brand Design	Factory	35 SKU Forecast
2702005	ROTHMANS Red K5 20 AND SO FRFR	Andorra	in EU	Cigarette	assigned	ROTHMANS_A	AD2 (And)	
2702006	ROTHMANS Blue K5 20 AND SO FRFR	Andorra	in EU	Cigarette	assigned	ROTHMANS_A	AD2 (And)	
2702007	PETER STUYV Blue K5 20 AND SO FRFR	Andorra	in EU	Cigarette	assigned	PSTUYV_A	AD2 (And)	Mar 2010 0
2702008	PETER STUYV Red K5 20 AND SO FRFR	Andorra	in EU	Cigarette	assigned	PSTUYV_A	AD2 (And)	Apr 2010 0
2702009	LUCKY STRIKE Red K5 20 AND SO FRFR	Andorra	in EU	Cigarette	assigned	LUCKYSTR_A	AD2 (And)	May 2010 0
2702010	PETER STUYV Blue K5 20 AND SO FRFR	Andorra	in EU	Cigarette	assigned	PSTUYV_A	AD2 (And)	Jun 2010 0
2702011	PETER STUYV Red K5 20 AND SO FRFR	Andorra	in EU	Cigarette	assigned	PSTUYV_A	AD2 (And)	Jul 2010 0
2702012	PETER STUYV Blue K5 20 AND SO FRFR	Andorra	in EU	Cigarette	assigned	PSTUYV_A	AD2 (And)	Aug 2010 0
2702013	PETER STUYV Red K5 20 AND SO FRFR	Andorra	in EU	Cigarette	assigned	PSTUYV_A	AD2 (And)	Sep 2010 0
2702014	PETER STUYV Blue K5 20 AND SO FRFR	Andorra	in EU	Cigarette	assigned	PSTUYV_A	AD2 (And)	Oct 2010 0
2702015	PETER STUYV Red K5 20 AND SO FRFR	Andorra	in EU	Cigarette	assigned	PSTUYV_A	AD2 (And)	Nov 2010 0
2702016	PETER STUYV Blue K5 20 AND SO FRFR	Andorra	in EU	Cigarette	assigned	PSTUYV_A	AD2 (And)	Dec 2010 0
2702017	ROTHMANS Red K5 20 AND SO FRFR	Andorra	in EU	Cigarette	assigned	ROTHMANS_A	AD2 (And)	Jan 2011 400
2702018	ROTHMANS Blue K5 20 AND SO FRFR	Andorra	in EU	Cigarette	assigned	ROTHMANS_A	AD2 (And)	Feb 2011 400
2702019	ROTHMANS Red K5 20 AND SO FRFR	Andorra	in EU	Cigarette	assigned	ROTHMANS_A	AD2 (And)	Mar 2011 800
2702020	ROTHMANS Blue K5 20 AND SO FRFR	Andorra	in EU	Cigarette	assigned	ROTHMANS_A	AD2 (And)	Apr 2011 1200
2702021	ROTHMANS Red K5 20 AND SO FRFR	Andorra	in EU	Cigarette	assigned	ROTHMANS_A	AD2 (And)	May 2011 1600
2702022	ROTHMANS Blue K5 20 AND SO FRFR	Andorra	in EU	Cigarette	assigned	ROTHMANS_A	AD2 (And)	Jun 2011 2000
2702023	ROTHMANS Red K5 20 AND SO FRFR	Andorra	in EU	Cigarette	assigned	ROTHMANS_A	AD2 (And)	Jul 2011 2400
2702024	ROTHMANS Blue K5 20 AND SO FRFR	Andorra	in EU	Cigarette	assigned	ROTHMANS_A	AD2 (And)	Aug 2011 2800
2702025	ROTHMANS Red K5 20 AND SO FRFR	Andorra	in EU	Cigarette	assigned	ROTHMANS_A	AD2 (And)	Sep 2011 3200
2702026	ROTHMANS Blue K5 20 AND SO FRFR	Andorra	in EU	Cigarette	assigned	ROTHMANS_A	AD2 (And)	Oct 2011 3600
2702027	ROTHMANS Red K5 20 AND SO FRFR	Andorra	in EU	Cigarette	assigned	ROTHMANS_A	AD2 (And)	Nov 2011 4000
2702028	ROTHMANS Blue K5 20 AND SO FRFR	Andorra	in EU	Cigarette	assigned	ROTHMANS_A	AD2 (And)	Dec 2011 4400

SKU forecast on a monthly basis

Given its holistic functionality, RaDIS still remains easy to use. The user interface is highly customizable to a targetgroup's demands.

Although the increase in complexity, performance was continuously improved. Today the system even features a real time specification search which makes navigation within the hierarchy of specifications a walk in the park.

Summary

After nearly eight years of live-operation and development there surely is a lot that could be told about RaDIS. But there is one thing which was and remains essential for the solution's success: the system's dataquality remains extraordinarily high.

Day by day users trust the system and are productively working with it. There is no need for constantly changing metasystems (mainly solutions based on Office Software), due to certain software's being unable to meet certain demands. The RaDIS development team is always working with the end user's needs in mind and implements necessary functions quickly. Bit by bit a system matured that is highly appreciated by its users... and somehow the system appreciates its users vice versa :-)

Project Facts



Project leader: Stefan Deinert (Xavo)

Timeframe: 2003 until today, first Go-live in June 2004

Productive locations: about 10 in Europe

Users: approx. 300 (with about 100 Power-Users)

More Information

If you are interested in Product Lifecycle Management (PLM), Specification Management Systems or Product Data Management (PDM) please find further resources and contacts as follows. Please do not hesitate contacting us, we will kindly provide you with any information needed.

Xavo Competence

Most up to date Information and news regarding PLM solutions and activities can be found at our website. Let <http://www.xavo.com/plm> be your basis for further research.

Contact

If you have any questions regarding PLM or need to discuss your project with us, your contact is **Detlef Riedel**, Xavo AG, Bayreuth.

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