


VERSANT
ITandFactory GmbH

Hop, Malt and Hi Tech Engineering

ITandFactory from Bad Soden in Germany talks about brewing beer, building process plants - and how an embedded Versant Object Database relates to it.



Frank Jankowiak, Sales Manager at ITandFactory, has seen many plants being built during his professional career.

“It can take years of construction before the first product rolls off the assembly lines. Initially, designers and engineers have to do their job. Together, they develop the technology and the processes, linking individual components into functional manufacturing units. Whether the plant is for food processing, beverages, consumer or commercial goods – modern industrial sites are at the end of a long and often complex process chain.”

Efficient IT infrastructure

An efficient IT infrastructure is crucial during the engineering process. This is where ITandFactory and their solution CADISON come into the mix. CADISON targets companies within engineering and process and production plant sectors across many industries.

Among ITandFactory’s customers is the „Brauerei C.& A. VELTINS GmbH & Co. KG“, a brewery with a long-standing tradition. Veltins began brewing beer in 1852. In 2008 more than 2.56 million hl (about 34 million gallons) were processed from Veltins’ plants.

Veltins’ present success is not only owed to innovative marketing and persuasive advertising campaigns. The company also profits from cutting-edge process engineering, which is continuously kept up to date.

“Brewing beer is more than mixing and fermenting malt, hop and water. Our production lines consist of more than 30,000 components, and these components require permanent maintenance,” Klaus Heidenreich, Engineer at Veltins Brewery, describes the situation. “Therefore, we have to precisely document every nut, bolt and screw.”

The CADISON database at Veltins manages every technical detail for



“Easy to deploy and to install, Versant’s database runs fast and reliably, and offers comprehensive database features at the same time.”

Our customers don’t need any knowledge of database administration.”

Frank Jankowiak,
ITandFactory GmbH

each component. It includes technical images and product images, as well as information such as the manufacturer, supplier, size, mixing ratio, pressure conditions, other coefficients and links to external CAD documents. Even after many years, the CADISON system enables maintenance engineers to look up and keep track of every change, to help survey equipment, components and installations.

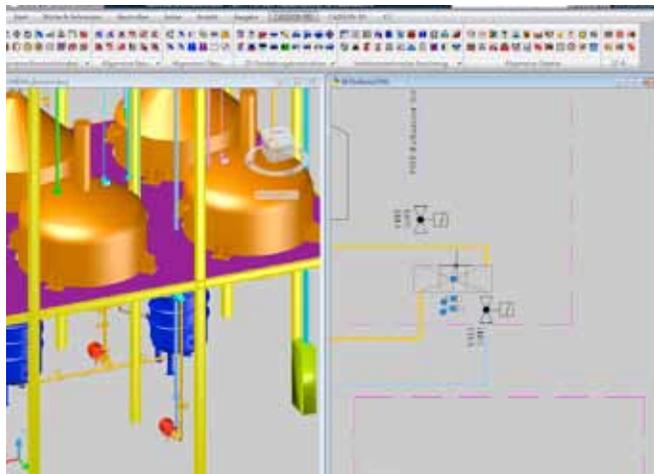
Keeping downtime to minimum

In cases of either preventive or corrective maintenance, engineers have all the required data at their fingertips. Wear and tear elements or replacement parts can be ordered immediately – keeping shut-downs and downtime on the production line to the minimum.

In large plants with thousands of installed components, the database can easily grow to a size of 10 GB. Many ITandFactory customers also use CADISON to manage 3D animated planning processes - accumulating large amounts of image or

Planning and designing a brewery:

CADISON integrates all project processes from design and planning to documentation



video data in the database. CADISON manages all information in a proprietary data storage that is tightly integrated with the application.

To store the data, the software developers are using an object

database licensed from Versant Corporation, the US database provider based in California.

“The Versant Object Database was our first choice,” explains Frank Jankowiak. “When we started developing CADISON in 1995, we went for a complete and consistent object-oriented application design. Consequently, we selected an object-oriented database. A huge advantage is we were able to speed up the development process and shorten our maintenance cycle. This allows us to react faster to customer demands.”

Another “plus” for the Versant Object Database is that it is practically invisible to the end users. ITandFactory does not want to burden its customers with database administration tasks. Unlike other databases, the Versant Object Database is literally maintenance-free and could be completely embedded into the CADISON application. The customer might not even notice that there is a database working in the background.

Finally, there is some common ground for engineers and beer drinkers: engineers need not consciously think about how their software works. Neither do beer drinkers. They do not think about how beer is being brewed, either.

CADISON – Highlights

More than 6.500 installations worldwide
German, English, Russian

Key Benefits

Integration of all project processes
Reduction of change management tasks
Standardization of components/workflows
Short processing time
Quality improvement of planning output

Architecture

Versant Object Database
Low maintenance
High performance
Client/Server topology
C++
Windows

it and factory
solution provider

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