

[competence]

REFERENCEPROJECT

Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN)

Since 2003 Central Bank of Nigeria has been running a comprehensive fully automated system to capture, process and archive all its payment documents at 23 branches countrywide. The bank's customers profit from faster payment transactions and quicker access to information. The bank itself is now able to cope efficiently with a continuously rising number of documents and at the same time reduce manual operations to a minimum.



Cheque processing, archiving and retrieval

Over the last decade the bank encountered more and more cheques and many other sorts of paper documents. Processing, archiving and retrieving them became very time-consuming and personnel-intensive. The bank needed a new, more efficient solution to administer its documents and speed up payment processes.

In 1998 the Central Bank of Nigeria replaced an existing cheque processing system with a more sophisticated solution provided by Beta Systems (formerly Kleindienst). Since then the bank has operated an image proof processing system which imitates the whole process chain step by step. All system components and applications are finely tuned to the bank's needs. With powerful Kleindienst scanner/sorters from Beta Systems (formerly Kleindienst) capable of processing different formats in one pass the cheques are captured at 23 different sites. With a special feature – the Magnetic Ink Code Recognition (MICR) unit designed by Beta Systems (formerly Kleindienst) - data is read from the codeline at the foot of each cheque. The cheque data is then passed through various applications for verification, completion, validity and reasonable checks before its export to the NACS (Nigerian Automated Clearing System) which the Beta Systems (formerly Kleindienst) system is certificated for.

Dr. Aladesulu, Director Information Technology Dept., Central Bank of Nigeria:

"The installation of the new cheque processing system by Kleindienst Solutions put us to the convenient situation to reliably and efficiently process our cheques in every corner of the country. Optimized transactions, fast payments for our customers, higher processing quality and significantly reduced manual work – these are the benefits for us. However, until last year we lacked a high-performance archiving solution with fast and easy access to our processed cheque images and data."

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Based on the reliability of the Beta Systems (formerly Kleindienst) products already in operational use, Central Bank of Nigeria decided to again place confidence in "The Dokument Manager" from Augsburg, Germany when it looked for a suitable archiving solution.

All captured cheque images and data are now archived in an integrated solution completely designed by Beta Systems (formerly Kleindienst). Suitable for 25 million documents the archive is the largest in the whole of Africa. Its extraordinary high access speed and the optimum filing structure make the archive a state-of-the-art solution. Modern browser-based intranet applications and extremely specialised research clients access the archive every day using decentralised satellite links right across the country. Data integrity and security is guaranteed by mirrored data transmission. Redundant archive servers safeguard the system against failure and so meet all legal data safety requirements.

Dr. Aladesulu, Director Information Technology Dept., Central Bank of Nigeria:

"With the enlargement of the Kleindienst cheque processing system by a universal archiving solution we now have automated the last link in our process chain. The archive has long since become an essential component of payment transactions. Our employees have now access to any information in need at any place in the country. Requests can be answered quick and precise. Optimum support and reliable service have confirmed the confidence which we have placed in Kleindienst."

Nigeria

With a population of over 120 million people, Nigeria is obviously the largest market in sub Saharan Africa with reasonably skilled and potential manpower for the efficient and effective management of investment projects within the country. It is well connected by a wide network of motorable all-season roads, railway tracks, inland waterways, maritime and air transportation.

Central Bank of Nigeria

The statutory mandates of the Central Bank of Nigeria are as follows:

- To issue legal tender currency
- To maintain external reserves
- To safeguard the international value of the legal tender currency
- To promote monetary stability and a sound financial system in Nigeria
- To act as banker and financial adviser to the Federal Government.

The Bank is also charged with responsibility of supervising and regulating banks and other financial institutions, which aims at ensuring high standards of banking practice and sustaining financial stability. The CBN accomplishes this task through the supervision and surveillance of the financial system and promotion of an efficient clearing and payment system. The surveillance of the banks enhances competition, while prudential regulations promote stronger balance sheets and higher quality of bank portfolios.

[experience]