

Lebensmittel Zeitung

Integration software will make data processing and business processes more flexible. By Jörg Rode

Germany. The KarstadtQuelle group will in future be using integration software from SeeBeyond to transfer data between its old IT systems and IT applications when its department store arm Karstadt Warenhaus AG changes to a new checkout system from PCMS and introduces a SAP merchandising system as of 2006.

As Peter Niederhausen, head of the department IT-Koordination at Karstadt Warenhaus AG describes the venture as "connecting the old world with the new". Data processing and business processes are expected to be come more flexible and faster.

The first steps with the Integrated Composite Application Network Suite 5 (ICAN) will be taken in the department store sector.

New Java-based checkouts as of 2004

Karstadt Warenhaus will be introducing Java-based POS systems and a new computer-assisted ordering system to all its department stores in the course of 2004 and 2005, both from the British provider PCMS.

It will not simply be a matter of putting in new tills, as more than 20 IT systems that process data from them also have to be exchanged.

These range from a merchandising system developed in 1988, to software that compiles the sales person's commission and right through to software that works out the VAT. Instead of connecting each and every one of these individual systems to the new POS system, Karstadt will set SeeBeyond's EAI programme between the two sides.

This will reduce the complexity of the undertaking and it will be much easier if, at a later date, more programmes have to get access to the POS data.

SAP Retail to be added as of 2006

The EAI software will also be of use when the Karstadt department stores switch to a new merchandising system as of 2006. SAP retail will then have to exchange data with even more old systems.

Karstadt has set up a competence centre at its IT subsidiary Itellium expressly for the implementation of the SeeBeyond software. Itellium will not only set up the solutions, it will also be responsible for the operation of the EAI servers.

Carrefour also uses SeeBeyond

Karstadt is not the only major retailer to go for SeeBeyond. The US software company has reported only recently that the French retailer Carrefour has chosen the ICAN suite for the exchange of data both within the group and with its suppliers.

Carrefour will start with an international B2B project to replace the EDI VAN system between Carrefour and its suppliers.

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