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CASE STUDY:
Flexible printing for teachers and centralized print management

ODENTHAL

The municipality of Odenthal benefits from flexible printing and scanning functionality. Teaching staff can now submit print jobs from anywhere over an Internet connection. Scans can be performed and printouts can be retrieved just-in-time from any printer in the network without any additional server infrastructure. All of this is made possible by **Ricoh Smart Integration**.

CUSTOMER PROFILE

The modernization of administrative services across Germany is proceeding at a rapid pace, and the municipality of Odenthal is no exception. This process goes far beyond general administrative functions.

The almost 15,600 residents of the Odenthal community are served by a high school, a middle school and several primary schools.

The primary schools are spread out across five neighborhoods and provide the backbone for childrens' education. The draw of the acclaimed Odenthal School Center consisting of a high school and an all-day middle school extends well beyond the municipal borders.

CHALLENGE

The Odenthal municipal government resolved to take charge of the management of the schools' printing systems. In order to keep educational activities separate from school administration, the schools have two separate networks. This arrangement requires the provision and management of separate printers for the educational network and the administration network.

In addition, teaching staff were limited to using the printers at their location. Documents needed for class could be prepared at home, but printing was only possible on the school premises. Documents that teachers had printed on the same system were not separated in the output tray in any way, being visible to anyone present.

> "We were thrilled to see the fast and seamless operation of the cloud solution. I keep hearing from teachers about the benefits of the solution as they are gradually discovering them."
>
> Martin Prass, IT Specialist

In the course of upgrading its IT landscape, the Odenthal administration envisioned a centralized solution that would provide increased printing flexibility to teachers and also to administrative staff. A further objective was to keep management processes efficient and straightforward despite the separate networks. All of these improvements needed to comply with privacy regulations.

SOLUTIONS

With **Ricoh Smart Integration**, the municipality of Odenthal selected a cloud solution that connects all printing systems within the local government and its schools. Compared to a conventional server-based setup, this cloud solution greatly simplified and accelerated the installation process. Moreover, all systems can now be conveniently managed from a central location, without having to maintain additional server infrastructure.

A chip-based authentication process was also implemented, ensuring security from unauthorized access. The authentication system provides the basis for an extended set of features. The print jobs are not visible to third parties and are not automatically sent to a printer but rather stored in the cloud.

Only after authentication on a printing system within the network can staff view, select and print their own jobs. This ensures that confidential information is protected at all times.

In addition to printing securely from anywhere, documents can be scanned and sent to the user's email inbox. The user's email address is automatically saved and does not have to be typed in, providing protection from typos.

As a cloud solution without a dedicated IT project and the associated server infrastructure, Ricoh Smart Integration was implemented quickly and with little IT effort compared to a complex server installation.

The underlying infrastructure is equally secure. Ricoh Smart Integration is hosted in a tier 3 data center in Frankfurt/Main, ensuring an availability of 99.9% around the clock, 365 days a year. Communication between the printers and the cloud platform is protected by 256-bit encryption.

BENEFITS

The Ricoh Smart Integration cloud solution provides the municipality of Odenthal with streamlined and flexible processes that increase efficiency for teachers and facilitate the centralized administration of printing systems in schools.

The simplified installation process and the elimination of supplementary server infrastructure saved time and money compared to a more complex server-based setup. With print jobs being transmitted over the Internet, network loads have decreased as well.

The privacy-compliant solution with chip-based authentication increases the flexibility of the teaching staff, as they can prepare classes at home and send print jobs for a whole week in advance. Print jobs are stored in the cloud and can only be viewed and accessed by the owner after authenticating on any system in the network.

The required number of printouts can be set on the device at the time of printing, enabling documents to be printed just in time, taking into account the number of students present.

When a printer is in use, teachers can switch to another one within the network. Outputting print jobs only after authentication eliminates the need to find and extract your own printouts from the stack of printed documents in the output tray. While logged into a printer, users can flexibly decide to delete the job after printing or to save it for further use. This gives teachers a simple way to output an already printed job again.

The chip-based authentication process ensures that the user's email address is stored automatically. This enables users to scan documents and send them to their own inbox quickly and easily.

Thanks to its simplicity and ease of use, Ricoh Smart Integration was quickly embraced by users throughout the municipality of Odenthal.

ABOUT RICOH

Ricoh offers innovative services and solutions for the digital workplace, enabling people and companies to use smart working more widely. For 85 years, Ricoh has helped to transform workplaces with document management solutions, IT services, communication services, commercial and industrial printing, digital cameras and industrial products.

Headquartered in Tokyo, Ricoh operates in more than 200 countries. In the financial year ending March 2020, the company had global sales of $19.06 billion.

For more information, visit www.ricoh-europe.com

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