



“With the MIMIX high availability solution, we have almost 100 percent protection against loss of business-critical data. Our downtimes are under control and our claim to be a 24/7 bank is a real asset to expand our banking business in Central and Eastern Europe.”

Otto Habla, International AG Procurator, Volksbank

Business Profile

Company name:
Volksbank International AG

Headquarters:
Vienna, Austria

Total assets:
4.4 billion (EUR)

Industry:
Banking

Employees:
2,900

Business Environment:

- Oversees a successful and expanding network of banks in Central and Eastern Europe
- Locations in eight countries including the Czech and Slovak Republics, Hungary, Romania, Croatia, Bosnia, Slovenia and Serbia as well as banking partners in Austrian, Germany, France, Italy and Turkey
- Serves approximately 850,000 customer accounts in Central and Eastern Europe.

Implementation Team:
Vision Solutions and
Business Partners

Vision Solutions Product:
MIMIX® HA for i5/OS®

Critical Issue

In order to stay competitive in today's financial marketplace, banks must be able to serve their customers at any time of the day or night from any location—not only during business hours at a branch office. With hundreds of thousands of customers across Central and Eastern Europe that rely on its banking services, Volksbank International AG needed a solution to keep its critical banking services and data protected and available at all times.

Results

- Ensures 24/7 banking service for customers.
- Protects vital bank records to comply with regulations.
- Eliminates planned and unplanned downtime.
- Rapid ROI in one year.

Technologies

- MIMIX® HA for i5/OS® from Vision Solutions
- IBM® System i environment

Business Challenge

Volksbank's search for a high availability (HA) solution was part of larger strategy that also included protecting its banking records to comply with European banking laws. In addition, Volksbank also needed to eliminate planned IT downtime, when systems are taken offline to perform maintenance and backup operations. Because of the continuous demand for banking services, the time available to perform these tasks was rapidly disappearing.

“Our customers came first,” said Otto Habla, International AG Procurator, Volksbank. “Then there were regulatory compliance issues, and thirdly our internal IT strategy outlined an HA solution to verify our database integrity and protect the entire network from unplanned downtime while eliminating planned downtime,” he said.



Solution

Volkswagen insisted upon a solution that had been proven within the banking industry and on the IBM System i server platform. With a close, collaborative relationship with IBM, Vision Solutions continually optimizes its MIMIX® HA for i5/OS® solution for maximum performance on System i servers. In addition, MIMIX has been proven effective time and again within the banking industry. Banks and financial institutions around the globe trust MIMIX to protect their vital applications and data.

“Vision Solution’s reply to our Request for Proposal demonstrated that they understood our challenges, requirements and our IT environment,” said Habla. “It was a thoughtful proposal, and it particularly impressed us that they asked detailed questions about our needs.”

The final hurdle for Vision Solutions was to demonstrate the effectiveness of its MIMIX solution in a live banking environment. Volkswagen subsidiary Ludova Banka in Slovakia was chosen as the site for the MIMIX trial implementation.

As a sign of confidence in MIMIX, the trial took place in mid-December, a time when IT environment changes are normally frozen to ensure that End-of-Year procedures run smoothly.

On a Sunday morning, with bank employees at work and customers depositing and withdrawing money, the test took place. Ludova’s production banking operations were switched by MIMIX from its primary server to a backup server, just as it would happen if the bank experienced planned or unplanned downtime.

The test was a complete success. All of Ludova Banka’s data, transactions and user interfaces were successfully switched to the backup server. The demonstration proved that MIMIX could protect and ensure the availability of Volkswagen’s vital banking services and data, and MIMIX was selected as Volkswagen’s high availability solution.

After the test, Vision Solutions easily converted the trial MIMIX implementation into its live production role. Subsequent MIMIX implementations in other subsidiaries were equally successful.

“We have been absolutely pleased with how smoothly the whole project ran. It is extremely rare for a project of such scale to be on time, on budget, and without any single critical situation,” said Robert Comina, Volkswagen’s Project Manager for MIMIX implementation.

Volkswagen’s decision to use MIMIX would provide many benefits, including a rapid return on investment. Volkswagen had audited six of its regional banks to determine the precise costs of IT downtime. With MIMIX in place to prevent both planned and unplanned downtime, Volkswagen was now in position to recover those costs.

According to the audit figures, within a year the MIMIX solution would pay for itself and then deliver substantial savings in the years to come.

MIMIX protects Volkswagen subsidiaries against the business consequences of unexpected IT outages and the productivity losses caused by planned downtime. It also ensures that its network of banks is in compliance with European regulations for the protection of international banking data. Most importantly, MIMIX helps keep Volkswagen customers satisfied, knowing that their banking services are always available and their financial data is secure and protected.



17911 Von Karman Avenue, Suite 500, Irvine, CA 92614
1-800-957-4511 ▪ 1-801-799-0300 ▪ visionsolutions.com



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