

DEARL



Success story

From MP3 players to navigation system

From MP3 players to navigation system

Digital invoice management in Germany's largest catalogue mail order company for software and PC accessories

With almost three million mail order customers in Germany, Austria, France and Switzerland, the PEARL group of companies is one of Europe's largest software and computer accessories catalogue mail order companies. Under the motto 'innovative, good value, competent', PEARL offers over 6,000 different products from the fields of hardware and software, PC peripherals, technology and communication. In Germany, PEARL Agency is the leading mail order company for software and IT accessories par excellence: the current mail order catalogue alone lists more than 3,000 products on around 260 pages, all of which are described in detail and illustrated with accompanying images.

Without the use of an electronic document management system, effective administration of dispatch and the associated invoicing would be almost inconceivable. Since December 2002, 'PEARL Agency Allgemeine Vermittlungsgesellschaft mbH' - the official company name in Germany - has been using windream for the administration of all incoming and outgoing invoices.





Nothing works without DMS

At PEARL Agency in Buggingen, Germany, up to 8,000 invoices – mainly outgoing invoices – are stored in windream every day. Before the company decided to use windream, the incoming invoices were stored and archived in paper form. The outgoing invoices were managed in the merchandise management system instead of in a DMS. After a period of two years, the data was stored on electronic media and outsourced. However, this created the problem that it became increasingly difficult to access the outsourced data: Although the information was still available on the storage media, it was no longer available for immediate retrieval.

This serious situation led to the decision to invest in an electronic document management and archiving system.

The prerequisite was that the new DMS had to enable both the rapid retrieval of stored older data and the effective administration of all current invoices. Before deciding on a specific DMS, the company first gathered comprehensive information about the various systems available on the market. Research on the Internet, visits to trade fairs and personal discussions with manufacturers served as a basis for information.

Key data

- ✓ Document management and financial accounting integrated in one system
- ✓ Efficient recording and management of incoming and outgoing invoices
- ✓ Quick and easy retrieval of archived documents





Why windream?

The decisive factor for the selection was that windream clearly differs from other systems in certain functional areas. PEARL Agency has been using the financial accounting system FibuNet since 1999. FibuNet GmbH, a long-standing windream partner, and windream GmbH have jointly developed a software which connects the accounting system with the DMS via an interface. 'The seamless integration into FibuNet,' emphasises Christian Allinger, member of the PEARL management in Germany, 'was certainly one of the decisive criteria. However, we also wanted to invest in a system that would allow us to operate effective document management without a great deal of training. Due to the integration of the DMS functions into the Windows Explorer, our employees in

the accounting department were able to work with windream immediately without having to familiarise themselves with a new program interface first. In addition, the attractive price-performance ratio also played a major role." Only those employees who are responsible for system administration at PEARL took part in a specialised training course.

After a short implementation phase of only six days, windream was ready for use at PEARL. The system went live immediately without any further test phases and is currently used by the accounting and billing departments.





Administration of incoming invoices with FibuNet and windream

The employees responsible for accounting first post incoming invoices in FibuNet. Each newly entered invoice is provided with a barcode label containing a unique document identification number.

The captured vouchers are then scanned and transferred to windream as TIFF files. The scanning process is carried out via the Ascent Capture scanning software developed by Kofax, which also has an interface to windream and thus enables the automatic transfer of scanned invoices to the DMS. Currently, the monthly volume of documents captured via scanner is around 20,000 pages.

In addition, the booking data from FibuNet are automatically captured and used as indices in windream. The

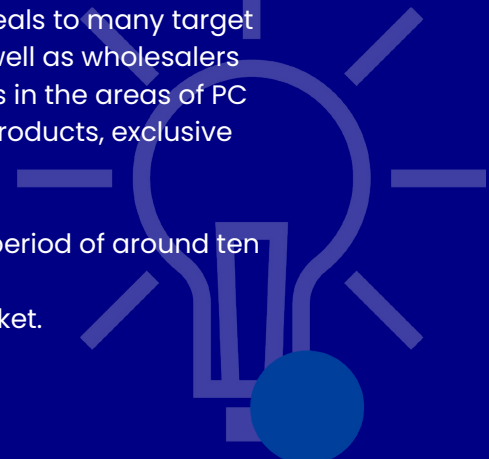
barcode number assigned to each document enables the accounting staff to clearly identify invoices in windream as well as in FibuNet.

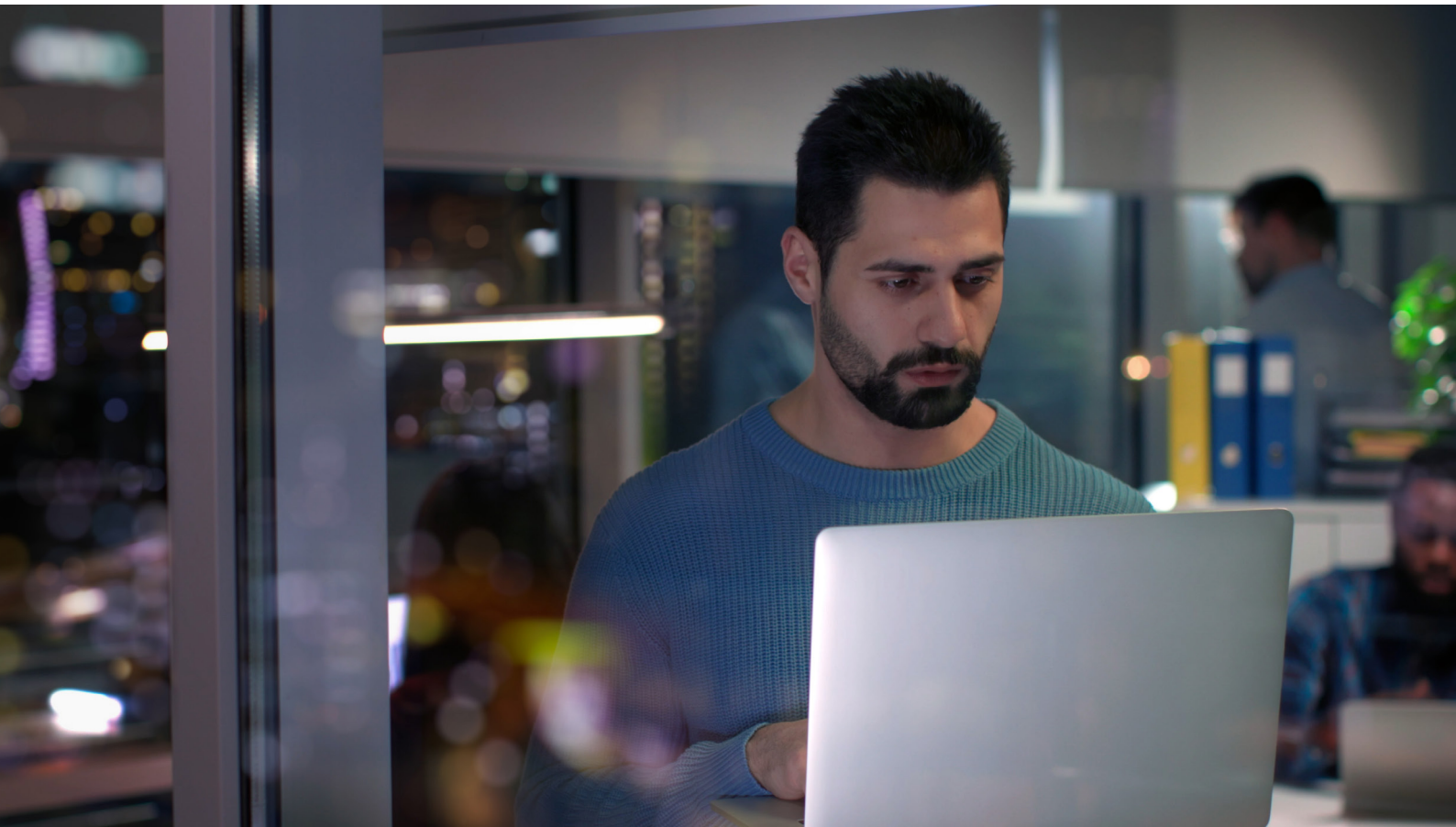
Background: The PEARL group of companies

The PEARL Group is an association of international companies specialising in trading, marketing and publishing. The activities of the subsidiaries in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, France, Russia, the USA and China are primarily focussed on the IT market. The PEARL group of companies is one of the leading international mail order companies for PC software and computer accessories.

PEARL Agency Germany is the European headquarters of the PEARL Group. As Germany's largest mail order company for PC software and accessories, PEARL Agency informs more than 15 million potential and existing customers with over 20 million catalogues every year. PEARL also presents current products in the well-known computer trade journals. The broad product range appeals to many target groups: End customers, bulk consumers, public institutions as well as wholesalers and distributors. The product range comprises over 6,000 items in the areas of PC hardware, software and PC accessories, including many new products, exclusive products and items in bulk.

PEARL Agency was founded in 1989 and has developed over a period of around ten years from a medium-sized company to a major player in the IT market.





Automatic recording of outgoing invoices during the night

The backend solutions PCL COLD and XML ImportManager, especially developed for windream, are used for the automated capture of outgoing invoices. These programmes make it possible to transfer electronically created outgoing invoices and the data contained in the invoices, such as invoice or customer numbers, to windream. The read-out data is used by the system for automatic document indexing and keywording. The documents themselves are saved as PDF files in windream and stored in the long-term archive. The entire capture and import process runs fully automatically during the night. Manual interventions - for example by a responsible system administrator - are not necessary. On average, the entire process from capturing all newly crea-

ted outgoing invoices to indexing and saving them in windream only takes about one hour per night. After the data transfer to windream, all receipts can be efficiently managed, researched and permanently stored in the long-term archive.



Archiving in the long-term archive

For long-term archiving, PEARL Agency uses a powerful jukebox that has more than 100 slots for storing storage media. Documents are stored in the archive on write-once-recordable WORM media (WORM = 'write once - read many'). The total storage capacity of the archive is almost 1,000 gigabytes. The windream jukebox control ensures that all archived documents can be retrieved easily and quickly with the usual windream DMS functions.

For long-term archiving, PEARL Agency uses

PEARL Agency does not want to limit electronic document management with windream to invoice management alone in the future. The medium-term plans aim at connecting other departments such as product support, customer service, product management and all other departments to the DMS. Christian Allinger would like to offer a very special service in the future: All customers who shop in the PEARL online shop will be able to manage their invoices online. With windream, this customer service can be optimally realised.



Contact

dataglobal Group GmbH
info@dataglobal.de

www.dataglobalgroup.com

Phone: +49 7131 / 1226-500
Fax: +49 7131 / 1226-599

Address: Im Zukunftspark 10
74076 Heilbronn
Germany

© Copyright 2023, dataglobal GmbH. Alle Rechte vorbehalten. Weitergabe und Vervielfältigung, auch auszugsweise, nur mit schriftlicher Genehmigung der dataglobal GmbH.
Das Urheberrecht der Fotos liegt bei F. X. MEILLER Fahrzeug- und Maschinenfabrik-GmbH & Co KG.

