NETsec
network security

REWE Group depends on GALsync

"REWE Group is an international company with different exchange organizations. Because we are continuously working closely together within the Group, but still have separate IT structures, we needed a thin solution for global address book synchronization. GALsync offered the best cost-benefit ratio."

Harald Schuster, System Administrator, REWE Information Systems GmbH

REWE GROUP

THE CUSTOMER

The REWE Group cooperative is one of Europe's leading trade and tourism companies. In 2012, the company had a total turnover of approximately EUR 50 billion. With 327,000 employees and 15,500 stores, the REWE Group is present in 13 European countries. **www.rewe-group.com/en**

THE CHALLENGE

REWE sought a solution that was simple to administer for regular, automatic updating of the global address book among the Group's various exchange organizations.

REWE Group: strong in trade and tourism

Founded in 1927 as a purchasing cooperative, today the REWE Group comprises businesses including numerous supermarket and building supply store chains (REWE and toom, for example), as well as the discounter PENNY. In addition, DER Touristik, Germany's second-largest travel company, is part of the REWE Group.

Such a diverse company poses particular demands on IT. On the one hand, technology should facilitate cooperation within the group, while on the other autonomy for certain division makes considerable sense. "The REWE Group is made up of four different exchange organizations," explains Harald Schuster, System Administrator with REWE Information Systems GmbH. "In addition to the headquarters in Germany, there is a subsidiary in Hong Kong with its own IT, as well as the combined tourism division in Austria, and GVS Mainz, an independent trading organization. Because we needed automated address book updating, we had a look at GALsync."

CUSTOMER BENEFITS

- Significant time savings for the REWE Group thanks to automated weekly synchronization

- GALsync enables the integration of new markets or new subsidiary companies with an immediate adjustment of the address books, without having to consolidate the exchange systems

- Licensing according to demand, as measured by the number of user objects and the number of forests

GALSYNC'S ADVANTAGES

- Synchronizes Global Address Lists (GAL) and calendar data across any number of exchange organizations

- Implementation within one hour

- Encrypted data transmission via e-mail is possible, so that no new trusted gateways are required

- Good cost-benefit ratio

- Low demand for server resources

- No consultant assignments required

Save time and money

REWE Group works with a total of 40,000 user objects. In just the company's headquarters in Cologne, Germany, roughly 20,000 users work with REWE's IT. "Updating all of the data in our global address book by hand would cost far too much time," says Schuster. "GALsync makes it incredibly easy. We installed the software on the servers of each exchange organization. Due to the fact that the solution is very thin, it can run along with regular programs on any arbitrary server. Even the fine tuning of the installation went smoothly, because every administrator in each REWE organization was able to install GALsync independently and to select the settings. "Who wants to export which data can be selected quickly and easily with a simple click of a mouse," explains Schuster.

Simple and effective

The exchange of updated address data takes place by e-mail. GALsync determines where changes need to be made and make the changes in the target environment visible. The REWE Group synchronizes the global address books once a week with GALsync. Schuster values this uncomplicated approach. "Previously we had been using an internally developed program to

compare the data," he says. "This, however, only ran on trusted gateways. With the e-mail exchange, GALsync offers a secure and easier-to-use alternative."

Ensure smooth transition during mergers

Whenever the REWE Group purchases a company or incorporates new markets, additional IT organizations are added to the Group's four separate exchange organizations. "In these situations, a tool like GALsync is very helpful," summarizes Schuster. "It gives you immediate and direct access to the new contacts. GALsync is thus an optimal solution when things need to move quickly." All in all, adopting this solution for the REWE Group has paid off:

"GALsync constantly saves us time. Name changes, new telephone numbers and addresses are automatically updated and synchronized. It's no longer necessary for all sides to take care of the same changes; now it is just the source. The cost-benefit ratio is very good, not least because the licensing fees are based on the number of user objects."