



RDC Speaks Your Business Language

RDC Datacentre, the European Automotive Solution Provider

For over thirty- five years, RDC Datacentrum has established and developed services concerning information, communication and computerisation in the Dutch Automotive sector. Originally, RDC was set up as a supplier of statistical information for the vehicle sector and it has grown into the computerisation centre of the vehicle branch via communication services such as motor vehicle tests, exchanging information on used cars and much more.

Every day, in the Netherlands alone, over 100,000 transactions are being processed by RDC via the Internet from dealers, manufacturers, importers, car companies, damage repairers and car lease companies. Almost 170 specialists at RDC develop and support the full service ICT solutions to the automotive sector, from network architecture to Support Desk, from application development to financial services.

The RDC Datacentrum B.V. is located close to the RAI, Amsterdam's famous Congress Centre. Almost 170 employees at RDC guarantee that the multiple activities and services of a modern data processing environment will be taken care of. IBM mainframes hosting the VSE/ESA operating system are in use. The production data of RDC is stored in IDMS-databases. AIX based systems act as servers to host the various Client/Server applications that use DB2/UDB as their DBMS. The favorite programming language used on the mainframe is COBOL. C, PHP and JAVA are the programming languages that RDC is using to develop the Open System applications.

Around 2001 RDC decided to make their IDMS databases available to Open System applications. Tom Boeken, Manager Systemen: "A new Client/Server application was about to be developed and we needed a direct access to our IDMS databases on the VSE mainframe. In these days we made the decision for an American software package that allowed us to use SQL syntax to retrieve data from IDMS. We had to develop an interface module in C so that we could use the product within our AIX applications." The Client/Server application went into production and other applications followed, all using the same in-house developed interface and the middleware.

Richard van der Nat, Manager ICS, remembers: "It came to us like a shock in early 2004, when we learned that the Software company whose package we had licensed and that had become very strategic to us, was sold and the new owner of the package decided to completely drop support of the VSE version. We had to make the decision to get an alternative as soon as possible. That was the situation when we learned about B.O.S. Software and tcACCESS."

The contact to B.O.S. was established and representatives came to visit RDC and discussed the chances to simply replace the middleware by tcACCESS. Tom Boeken: "It had been the intention to make a transparent move away from the package to tcACCESS. We did not want to make any changes to the numerous applications that were using the interface. The people from B.O.S. discussed the technical aspects with us and made a proposal to us. We agreed to install tcACCESS and gave it a try."

B.O.S had evaluated the C-interface and proposed to use this interface with no modifications and call the tcACCESS modules to access the VSE IDMS-databases. Another technical difficulty also had to be resolved. Marc Versteeg,

IDMS Administrator: "B.O.S. developed a routine that took our IDMS SCHEMA definitions and created the required tcACCESS definitions to access the databases."

tcACCESS was installed in December 2004 and after a 2-day test it was obvious that all of the expectations had been met. Tom Boeken: "We have been able to access IDMS from our existing UNIX-applications and the most important thing to us was that we did not have to modify the applications."

tcACCESS was purchased and within the next weeks was put into production for all applications. Marcel Versteeg: "During this period we had a close contact to the B.O.S. support and have been very pleased about their responsiveness and professionalism. There has been a very nice side effect when using tcACCESS. The performance of our applications has been improved because tcACCESS always attempts to use the most efficient access path to the database."

In the meantime, the relationship between RDC and B.O.S. has even become stronger. Because of the IDMS expertise of RDC, B.O.S. listened to recommendations that came from RDC and implemented them into tcACCESS. A B.O.S. spokesman: "tcACCESS is probably the best solution to provide a relational access to a networked IDMS database. For all processing types like SELECT, UPDATE, INSERT and DELETE, tcACCESS automatically maintains ownership between records and members. Transactional processing is fully supported."

RDC has made the next step. They are also a customer of the tcVISION product from B.O.S. that will help RDC to automatically synchronize changes that have been applied to the IDMS databases and propagates them to the DB2/UDB databases on AIX and the SQL-Server databases of Microsoft under WINDOWS. The changes made in the Open System applications will be applied to IDMS using tcACCESS.

Richard van der Nat: "We are glad that we are partnering with B.O.S. The experience so far has been very encouraging. B.O.S. is a company that listens to what the customers say and then provides solutions. Taking tcACCESS and tcVISION on board has been a good decision."

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