



CONTROL AND FLEXIBILITY AS INTEGRATION SERVER CONNECTS SYSTEMS

Sankt Katharinen Hospital in Frankfurt am Main networks and monitors its IT systems using the Interface Manager for Healthcare

Sankt Katharinen Hospital is a tertiary care hospital and an academic teaching hospital attached to the Goethe University. With 350 beds and six day-patient beds in wards devoted to internal medicine, surgery, neurology, urology and geriatrics, plus the departments of anesthetics, laboratory medicine and radiology, the facility supplements Frankfurt's emergency care provision. It is operated by Sankt Katharinen-Krankenhaus GmbH, based in Frankfurt/Main. Sankt Katharinen Hospital belongs to the Society of Sisters of St. Catherine, a grouping of the Society's social facilities in Germany, based in Münster/Westphalia.

AT A GLANCE

- The facility's IT systems are linked in-house (SAP Patient Management, iMedOne, laboratory system, kitchens system, etc.).
- The integration server receives data and converts it to the format required by the hospital's target systems.
- The interface manager's interfaces are monitored using a client and a smartphone app.
- In the future: quick, easy integration of other interfaces via open architecture.



THE REFERENCE IN DETAIL

THE CUSTOMER. At Sankt Katharinen Hospital, 650 staff tend to around 20,000 patients each year. The Department for Internal Medicine, particularly general internal medicine, cardiology, gastroenterology, intensive medicine and infectious diseases medicine, The Neurology Department with its stroke unit, the Surgery Department covering gastroenterological surgery, orthopedics and trauma surgery, neuro-surgery (spinal surgery) and the Urology Department and the Geriatrics Department are run as main departments. As a Catholic institution, Sankt Katharinen Hospital feels obligated to provide all-round care and support for its patients, and it can look back at over 50 years of “helping and healing”. It feels that quality consists of many different elements which should complement each other to the greatest possible degree. These range from admission, through top-class treatment and care during the patient’s hospital stay, to discharge.

THE CHALLENGE. At the center of all that activity, Sankt Katharinen Hospital always focuses on the patient. In line with the slogan “Responsibility for People”, the institution interprets quality to particularly stand for excellent patient care, modern, top-level medicine, and safety for the patients. One of the ways these standards are met when dealing with patients and their families is through a modern communications infrastructure. So, for processes to unfold smoothly, data has to be shared seamlessly between the sub-systems.

As part of the in-house IT strategy, a stated objective was to provide an anchor point to ensure complete systems interoperability – by implementing an enterprise service bus (ESB). At the same time, this was to be accompanied by a flexible, open architecture for future IT infrastructure upgrades which would protect the investment made. Such upgrades should be both simple and capable of being implemented by the institution itself, depending on the human resources available. In contrast, for everyday operations there was a desire to remove as many of the administrative tasks as possible. The system implementation went hand-in-hand with the added challenge of migrating the existing laboratory system to a new product without impacting live operations.

THE SOLUTION. Given these objectives, and after a detailed analysis, Sankt Katharinen Hospital opted for the Interface Manager for Healthcare. Its universal technical core meets extremely high standards of security, load capacity and availability. The police and various ministries have been using a similar form of the solution for a number of years. On this basis, it was given a major upgrade so that the hospital could use it. As an integration server, the enterprise service bus (ESB) solution receives data and converts it to the format required in each case. In this way, even data from incompatible systems can be shared. No longer does there necessarily have to be any adjustment to the various special-

ized applications and systems. The positive outcome is that users can continue to work with the systems they are familiar with. The Interface Manager for Healthcare supports numerous standard adapters and connectors for all the main protocols, data formats and databases (HL7, HCM, web services (WSDL), HTTP(S), FTP, SCP, SMTP, RFC, BAPI, file interfaces, Oracle, MySQL etc.) which can be flexibly supplemented by an open programming interface (API). This is achieved via a modular, scalable system architecture based on Java, independent of any third party platforms and licenses.

CUSTOMER BENEFITS. With the Interface Manager for Healthcare, Sankt Katharinen Hospital got a solution which enables sub-systems which previously had incompatible communication standards to be linked up, and systematically administered and monitored, in a way which makes efficient use of resources. Whenever systems are replaced or updated, the process is less complex and migration is possible without disrupting live operation. It can also cater for specific requirements coming from the medical staff. The modern, user-friendly client interface allows upgrades to be autonomously made to the in-house IT structures. The Interface Manager automatically adjusts when any change is made to the SAP system’s HCM interface. The large number of communication standards that have been integrated, and the open, standardized architecture also allow the mapping of future scenarios and developments. This provides a great deal of investment protection. The Interface Manager can be monitored using a smartphone app. This cuts down on administration and enables faster response times should some fault occur. The aim for the institution to have access to the right information at the right time was achieved.

“In our view, an integration server has to be able to do more than just send data from one system to the other. With its modern interface that helps us with our administration, and the smartphone app for mobile monitoring, we’ve found the Interface Manager to be an ideal combination.”

Christoph Hinz, Head of IT, Sankt Katharinen-Krankenhaus GmbH



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