Egger GmbH is one of the largest producers of particle boards, flooring laminate, and home décor products in Europe. The company has 18 production plants throughout Europe and achieved a turnover of 1.8 billion Euros during the 2010/2011 business year.
The Requirements

To support its continuous growth, Egger’s strategy is to provide stringently organized, standardized IT infrastructure throughout its business. Prior to installing Therefore™, SAP played a leading role in Egger’s business management, but document storage had not been harmonized. Hence, a system capable of handling Egger’s decentralized structure and existing IT infrastructure was needed. In addition to the requirements mentioned above, Egger had the following demands for its information management system:

- The system had to support importing and scanning documents, the storage of large volumes of Microsoft® Office documents and spoolfile-type documents
- Global control over all versions of all documents, especially Office documents (project plans, review tables, correspondence) throughout all locations was needed
- The latest document versions had to be actively replicated to smaller locations with limited WAN bandwidth to ensure work would not be interrupted due to slow internet connections
- Automatic removal of old documents from magnetic storage to cheaper optical media
- Scalable solution in terms of data volume and number of locations
- Easy installation and distribution of client software on all company PCs
- Web interface to support their e-commerce strategy

The Solution

Therefore™ Business Edition was chosen. The decisive factor was its ability to fulfill all key requirements, in particular a scalable and expandable system. The ability to completely integrate Therefore™ with SAP R/3 was a critical point in the decision. In particular, the ability to process and transfer a very high volume of documents, (an expected part of reorganizing SAP storage) made a winning impression.
Wir hatten während des gesamten Projekts in allen Bereichen die gleichen zuverlässigen Ansprechpersonen bei Canon, die unsere Bedürfnisse genau gekannt haben.

Christian Würmli, Finanzen und Services, ewz

The following documents are linked to SAP:

**SAP Integration**
The following documents are linked to SAP:

- **Supplier Bills and Receipts**
  - Incoming Invoices
  - Delivery Notes

- **Customer Files**
  - Order Confirmation (from the Internet)
  - Delivery Notes
  - Bills of Lading
  - Invoices

- **HR**
  - Applications and CVs

- **Project Management**
  - CAD drawings

- **Outsourced**
  - Manufacturing orders
  - Accounting assets
  - Financial Statements
  - Controlling
  - Debitor/ Creditor
  - General ledger

- **Scanned Information**
  - Cash receipts
  - Bank records
  - Supplier invoices
  - Reminders

- **Uses from Other applications**
  - Optimization Plans
  - Wood Documentation
  - Shift Records
  - Time Cards

The fact that Therefore™ also offered the ability to replicate Microsoft® SQL and Oracle databases made it possible for Egger’s locations with low WAN bandwidth to achieve acceptable performance rates. Due to initial slow network connections, Egger originally installed a multi-server system with 23 Therefore™ servers. Recently, due to bandwidth improvements, Egger has centralized its database and now uses two active servers and a Microsoft® failover cluster to protect against hardware failure. Business documents are no longer stored on the file servers and have been moved to Therefore™. Moreover, disaster protection is assured since Egger’s headquarters centrally back up all data from all branches and production plants. Operational and financial audits are carried out using only electronic documents; financial documents are no longer stored as hard copies, in accordance with the law. All offices and project groups use Therefore™ exclusively to store and process their documents.
Goals and Benefits

- Simplified standardized access to various filing systems
- Improved organization of the filing structure
- Standardized document indexing throughout all departments and branches
- User support to improve the existing filing system i.e. “decentralized clean-up”
- Statistical analysis on access rates and number of old documents

Benefits of Information Management

- Local access to all information
- Comprehensive access at all business locations
- High transparency and improved communication
- Improved access to information
- Savings on time, space and materials
- Statistical analysis on access rates and number old documents
- Increased productivity and improved quality
- Efficient use of information and knowledge
- The “wheel does not have to be reinvented” everywhere
- Integration of various systems
- A system-wide, uniform user interface

Therefore™ improves access to data and efficiency