Oesterreichische Nationalbank Accelerates Application Delivery with Automic by 30 to 40 percent

Automic provides the central platform for the work of Dev to Ops

Oesterreichische Nationalbank (OeNB), the central bank of the Republic of Austria, is familiar with automating application workload using Automic Workload Automation for more than fifteen years. The Automic platform is used to manage the execution and integration of complex workflows that supported OeNB's business applications.

OeNB faced increased organizational and technical challenges as it tried to shorten application deployment times while ensuring traceability and accountability. Having analyzed its methods and researching suitable products that would provide an adequate deployment solution, the bank decided to implement Automic Release Automation (ARA).

"ARA is suitable as an open system especially suitable for complex and heterogeneous environment," says Peter Deixelberger, Head of IT Operations, OeNB. "Being able to cover all automation topics with the same technology provider was a big advantage for us,"

Demand for More Frequent Application Updates Set to Rise

Nowadays applications must be updated at ever shorter intervals to rapidly meet new customer needs and gain competitive advantage. However, deploying new software in heterogeneous test and production systems is becoming increasingly complex. OeNB has more than 70 different applications running in different

BENEFITS
- Faster application delivery from development to production
- Easy creation of workflows and consistent deployment process
- Traceable and fully automated test runs

CHALLENGES
- Increased business demand for new IT services
- Manual deployment processes slow and error-prone
- Application release processes undocumented

SOLUTION
- Reusable objects and model-based architecture
- Centralized user interface
- Audit logs and reporting

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target environments. In the past the handover was manually done from department to department and from environment to environment. Additionally, there were manual handovers. All of the above delayed the deployment process and the documentation.

Comprehensible Automation Ensures Each Step is Fully Tested

Automic is used to automate all processing for more than 70 applications for OeNB. Furthermore, ARA covers the entire release process for all environments, from development through testing and maintenance to production, and is used by all departments. ARA manages access rights so that individual employee's ability to create artifacts and perform deployment is based on their job responsibilities.

Each release, whether it be a patch update or an application upgrade, consists of artifacts coming from different sources.

In addition, configuration files, installation and database scripts and other attributes need to be adapted to enable delivery of packages to the different target systems. The complexity of the deployment process increases with the number of different configurations, versions, operating systems, and people that become involved.

The ARA packaging mechanism allows a new version of the entire package that includes all artifacts, each time there is a revision. Promotion paths ensure the gradual and controlled movement of packages. Packages provide the building blocks to provide a reliable and continuously updated inventory of the company, which has all details of what is done, when and where. For OeNB this eliminates the need for elaborate documentation in different formats such as Word or XML files. The company now has a central platform, and a single repository that can provide complete information including the change requests and reports.
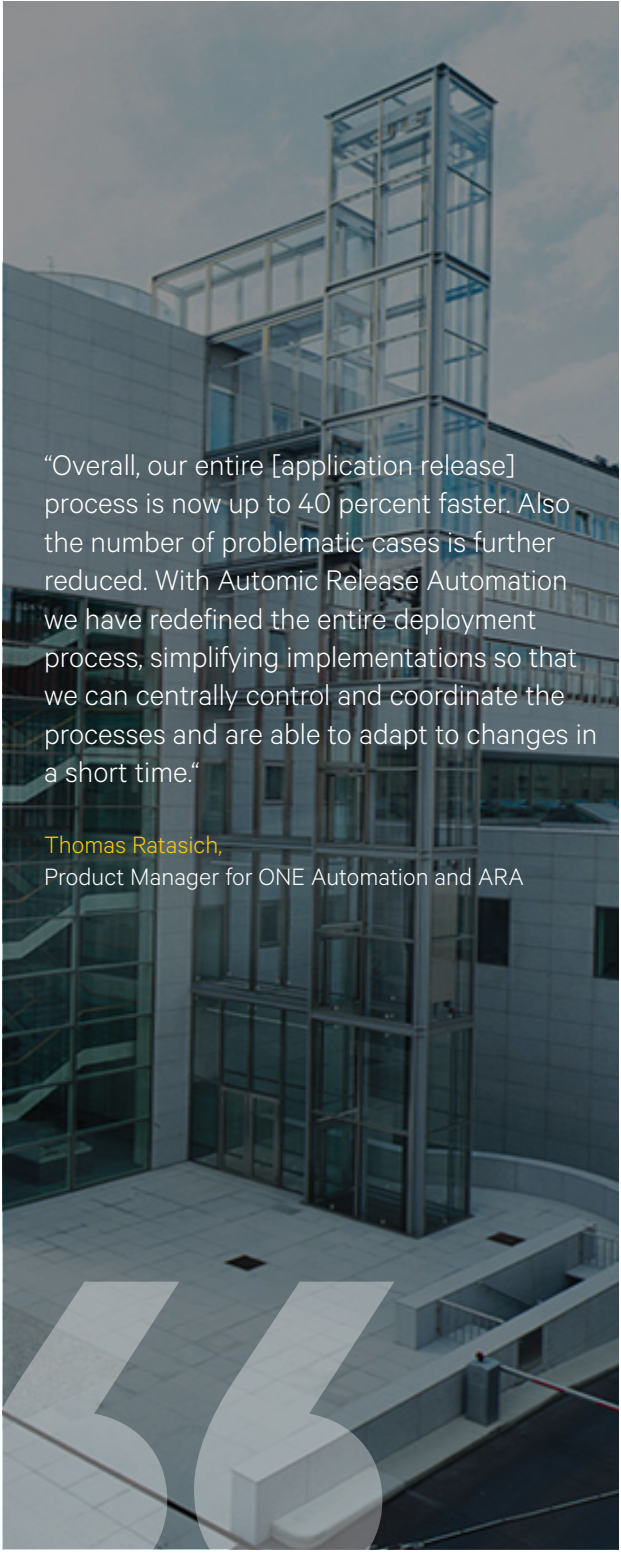
Easy Creation of Automation Workflows

Workflows of ARA replace the manual work required to install an application to update to patch or to remove and they can be used repeatedly. Their preparation is very simple and can be graphically viewed as block diagram flows. There is a rich library of actions available through the Automic Marketplace (marketplace.automic.com) where most of the popular application servers and containers can be downloaded and configured.

Existing workflow definitions can always be reused making it easy to create a unified deployment process. Clicking on the application update will start the deployment process using the appropriate workflow. The implementation itself takes only a few minutes.

Centralized Control of Deployments

With ARA OeNB has centralized control of its release deployment environment where both Operations and Development teams can manage runtime settings. It automatically applies appropriate settings in real time, based on environmental variables (eg. the type and number of servers), server settings (eg. directory names and version numbers) and configuration data. Deployment goals, profiles, logins and more can be set. ARA not only ensuring that the right settings are made at the right time; it also plays an important role in keeping application release workflows simple and manageable.

"Overall, our entire process is now up to 40 percent faster," explains Thomas Ratasich, product manager for ONE Automation and ARA, OeNB. "The number of problematic cases is further reduced. With Automic Release Automation we have redefined the entire deployment process, simplifying implementations so that we can centrally control and coordinate the processes and are able to adapt to changes in a short time. "

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For more information or a product demonstration please visit www.automic.com