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EXTERNAL PROTECTION OF STRATEGIC BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT DATA

THE 'FORT KNOX' WITH ATM NETWORK ACCESS

Secure Infostore AG (SIAG) offers a Europe-wide solution for external backup of strategic business and government data. The offered services are based on the network services of Telecom PTT. To achieve maximum speed, they utilize the Switched Multimegabit Data Service (SMDS) on the ATM backbone network. To provide protection against the greatest potential business risk (loss of data), SIAG works in parallel with and supplements the existing EDP organization of the customers and their procedures.

Secure Infostore AG (SIAG) is the first supplier of an electronic emergency service for external storage and backup of strategic data and information in a unique location that is accessible

on-site customs clearance characterize this location. This high-security installation is the only one in Switzerland that offers all these facilities.

ALFRED HUNZIKER, MÜNCHENSTEIN, BASEL

sible with 64 kbit/s to 155 Mbit/s communications links. Based on a special cooperation agreement with the Swiss Army, SIAG can offer this exclusive service from a high-security installation that is used jointly for military and civilian purposes. The negotiated contracts remain valid also in times of catastrophes, general mobilization and war. This subterranean cavern system continues to be used in parallel by the armed forces command. A high degree of physical security (dry cavern, away from flood areas, completely inside the rock, protected against all known ABC threats, self-sufficient operation with fully redundant systems), in combination with guaranteed services of the army (operation, guards, energy, etc.), as well as a helicopter landing pad and a jet air strip suitable for civilian use and offering

Strategic advisory board

The shareholder and board structure ensures that the data entrusted to SIAG come only in contact with companies that are correspondingly connected to SIAG. The strategic advisory board has been founded as a long-term and competent consultative committee. It serves SIAG as a reference for quality enhancement and service orientation. Based on their know-how, their position and contacts, the members of the strategic advisory board are able to favourably influence the business objectives of SIAG. The strategic advisory board is appointed by the SIAG board of directors and consists of personalities from the fields of diplomacy, international telecommunications authorities, data security, banking, Federal Government, telecommunications and information technology, as well as data ciphering.

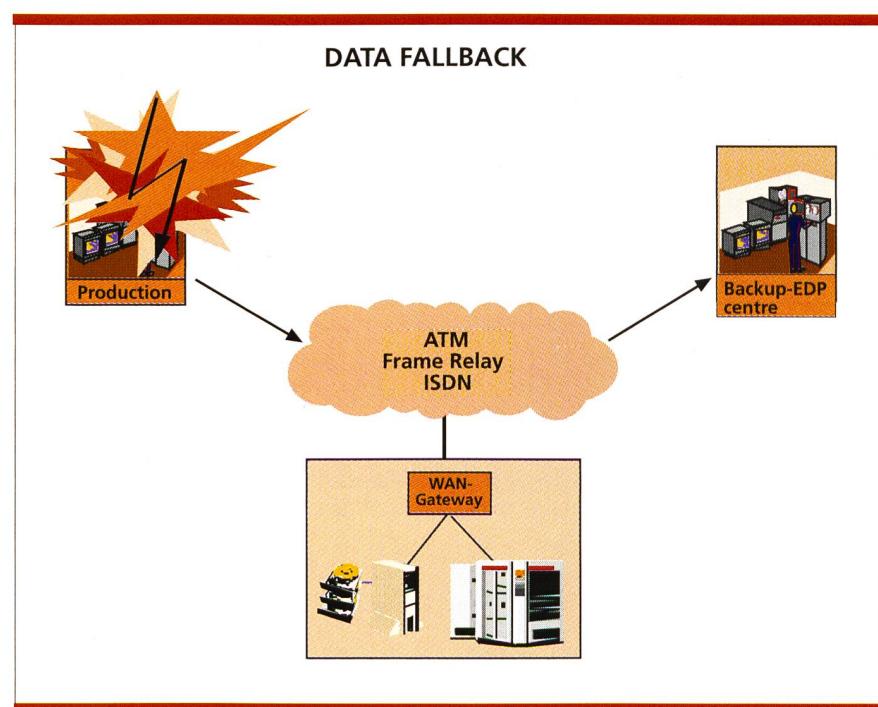


Fig. 1. Data fallback for active survival insurance.

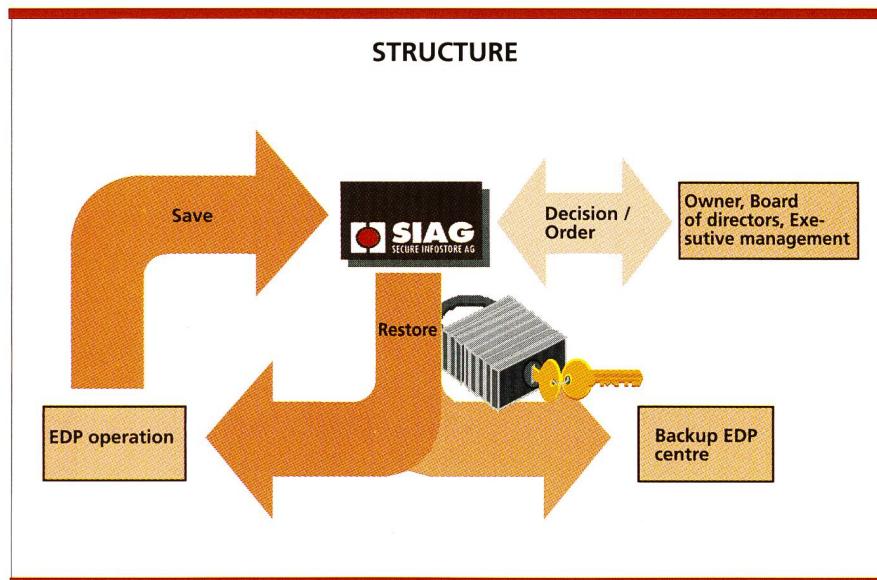


Fig. 2. Data backup and fallback procedure.

Fully remote-controlled operation

The data transferred by the customer via the network are electronically stored in the 'Safehouse' either on jointly used or physically separate dedicated storage systems (disk and tape robots). The fully remote-controlled operation conforms to the latest technology. For normal operation no personnel is required inside the facility, which greatly enhances the security.

Markets and applications

Typical customers and applications are banks, insurance companies, pension plans and foundations, personnel data, direct marketing, product data, production data, patents, escrow services, public and private data bases, historical archives, and information protected by copyrights.

Through the network interface and electronic storage, the customers have access to their information around the clock on 365 days per year. This has become a frequently stipulated requirement, because only in this way can an EDP service restoration time be guaranteed that is com-

pletely independent of the possible damage scenario. Due to the growing dependence on decision-making input and information, this requirement today applies to most businesses and government agencies. Electronic storage ensures that each (electronic) instruction and data manipulation is recorded and traceable. This is an effective means for combating fraudulent use, manipulations, data theft, or data corruption.

Wideband data transmission

For data transmission SIAG uses the Switched Multimegabit Data Service (SMDS), which supports data signalling rates from 2 Mbit/s to 155 Mbit/s. The SMDS is based on the ATM (Synchronous Transfer Mode) network of Telecom PTT. For smaller bandwidth, also the nationwide ISDN network and Frame Relay services with capacities from 64 Kbit/s to 2 Mbit/s as well as VSAT satellite antennas for dedicated links that sustain up to 2 Mbit/s are available. By choosing SMDS on the ATM backbone network, the customer achieves excellent flexibility, particularly in comparison with con-

ventional leased lines. Practical experience has shown that the calculated transmission capacities are fully achieved.

Trustworthy and safety

The customer can initiate a data download, upload, or backup at any time. At the request of the customer, SIAG can also act as a fiduciary by allowing access to the backup data only after explicit authorization by previously defined decision makers of the customer. This enables the executive management or EDP management to determine how and why the company was exposed to a high risk of information loss. This service also constitutes an active process-integrated quality control function.

International network access

The compatibility of the data services (or actually information transmission services) provided by Telecom PTT with other European network operators enables SIAG to offer its unique service throughout Europe or even the entire world. For decades Switzerland has enjoyed the reputation as a safe country for depositing monetary assets. In the future, this reputation will also apply to the safe storage of international data bases.



Alfred Hunziker, B.S. in Engineering (HTL), is a director of Secure Infostore AG (SIAG) and is responsible for marketing and sales. As a sales manager and later managing director of the Swiss subsidiary of an American specialist company in the field of trading room platforms for financial institutes he became familiar with the requirements of real-time information distribution and processing. He subsequently completed his postgraduate studies in business management, and after additional activity with a network system vendor he joined SIAG in October 1994.