

CASE STUDY

320 STORES, ONE CABLING SYSTEM: FOOD RETAILER “TEGUT” INSTALLED A DATWYLER COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

Between 2007 and early 2010 the food retailer tegut installed a 10 Gigabit ready, failsafe communications network from Datwyler in all its stores, the company’s head office, its logistics centres and several subsidiary companies.

“tegut... gute Lebensmittel” is a medium-sized, family-run company based in Fulda, Germany. tegut employs over 6500 staff in 320 stores, its head office, two large logistics centres, two production plants and two service companies. The stated objective of this commercial enterprise is to contribute to “a good life through good food”. The quality demanded of its goods is therefore high.

tegut placed equally high demands on the installation of its new communications cabling system, which was introduced into all its stores between 2007 and early 2010. “Our aim was to modernise and improve the transmission speed by at least a factor of ten to significantly improve reliability and integrate VOIP into the network”, says Johannes Willkomm, Head of Systems Technology/Communication.

The modernisation project included all the stores plus the office areas at the head office, the logistics centres and two subsidiary companies. The structured cabling in the head office did not provide adequate socket density or flexibility because the cable channels in the floor were too small. In the stores, tegut used coaxial cabling with small bandwidths which was very sensitive to interference and needed to be replaced with structured cabling. According to Willkomm, “We were looking for a reliable, high-performance and well-known cabling system”.

State of the art: 10 Gigabit ready

tegut was assisted by Kerbl Elektrotechnik of Petersberg. Kerbl suggested a 10 Gigabit ready cabling system with Category 7 cables and RJ45 connection technology MS-K 1/8 from Datwyler. “All our experience with it has been good. A minimum of Category 7 is simply state of the art for data cables. And the MS-K modules are very quick and easy to handle”, explains Norbert Rippert, a partner in Kerbl.

In order to increase flexibility in use of the office space, 3,000 m² of raised floors was constructed at the head office. Floor

boxes, each with two double sockets, were installed. Sufficient cable was left in reserve to enable each floor box to be moved up to four metres.

The Kerbl team led by Thomas Grohl laid approximately 60 kilometres of Uninet data cable and installed around 3,000 MS-K modules in the tegut head office and in two logistics centres. In the stores, Norbert Rippert’s teams created between 20 and 120 connections. This required over 900 kilometres of cable, around 10,000 double sockets and 900 patch panels.

Logistical challenge

Modernisation of the 320 stores was a particular challenge for all concerned. The tegut technical department and the installer drew up a precise plan for each store. Kerbl then ordered the materials needed from Datwyler. Installation took place during normal opening hours, during which the interface components were prepared at the tegut head office. Three teams were then deployed on site to connect all the computers, servers, telephones, till systems, point of sale terminals, reverse vending machines and weighing systems to the structured cabling.





Integration of wireless services

In the stores, in particular, the new cabling system was a godsend: In 2008/2009 tegut introduced a modern proprietary inventory management system which requires high band-

widths. WLAN access points were installed for this system which had to be connected using structured data cables. Today, every store is fully covered by WLAN radio fields, and staff can carry out incoming goods checks and process orders via mobile devices.

Johannes Willkomm is very happy with all aspects of the new system: "We now have a sound, high-performance network with high reliability. The structured cabling in the stores takes the heat out of any problems and has made troubleshooting much easier." This infrastructure modernisation project remained on schedule in all respects, also from the economic point of view. This is due to the realistic cost estimate as well as the professional installation and, as Norbert Rippert stresses, "the delivery service from Datwyler, which was always on time".

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