

IBM Client Reference



BIZ DATA a.s.

Synopsis: *A software developer in the Czech Republic accelerates its development process, achieves around-the-clock service availability, facilitates operations and streamlines its cash flow when it chooses the IBM Bluemix platform, running on a SoftLayer infrastructure provisioned by IBM Cloud Services, for faster development in the cloud*

Location: Kolin, Czech Republic

Industry: Computer Services
Professional Services

URL: <http://www.bizdata.cz>

Client Background:

BIZ DATA a.s. develops software solutions, especially large-scale information systems, for insurance and brokerage companies. It is also a certified IBM Business Partner that provides IBM equipment and related technical and system consulting services. The company was founded in 1995 and operates as a subsidiary of SPGroup a.s. It is headquartered in Kolín with an additional office in Prague, Czech Republic.

Business Need:

To accelerate development with minimum effort, BIZ DATA a.s. sought a development environment in which applications ran as a service. Because the company wanted an easy process and minimal accounting department involvement, it reviewed the available options' price and payment methods.

Solution:

BIZ DATA developed the BD Broker system on the IBM Bluemix platform, running on a SoftLayer infrastructure provisioned by IBM Cloud Services, as its cloud-based application-development environment for extended application specifications and enhancements. The client paid for services as they were used through the solution's pay-as-you-go model. The company also used the Bluemix platform's calculator tool to estimate monthly payments in advance. The Bluemix platform has its own monitoring applications, and IBM monitors all services offered.

The BD Broker system is designed to support the business activities of intermediary companies that

have a network of subagents. The system helps BIZ DATA customers collect commissions from their business partners for contract users, through which the customers sell products or services. The BD Broker system is particularly suited to support companies with structured business networks, such as multilevel marketing.

BD Broker enables customers to record the details of signed contracts, including the following items:

- Monitoring status changes, from design and approval to cancellation and termination
- Recording customers and agents
- Defining business and organizational structure, such as that of coinsurance companies, banks or energy providers
- Defining products offered, such as insurance, financial products, electricity, gas and cosmetics

Each agent who logs in to the BD Broker system has access to only his or her own customer database and an overview of the team's and personal commissions, including commissions for multilevel marketing. For a selected period, the system can support temporary financial close processes and final approval of the data and then run the final deadline. Upon completion, deadlines are generated and provisioned for brokers and circulated to each agent. Each active agent has an affiliate account with a summary of provisions closed for the previous period, including an overview of production for the last period.

The output of the BD Broker system is made after commission reports for brokers and agents are closed. Reports are generated in PDF files. Links to customer information systems, including the accounting system, CRM system and management information system, are available when the closure outputs are exported to the comma-separated values file format, used for importing data into third-party applications.

Benefits of the Solution:

By developing its BD Broker system on the IBM Bluemix platform, running on a SoftLayer infrastructure provisioned by IBM Cloud Services, BIZ DATA accelerated its development process and facilitated operations. Because many development components existed in the Bluemix platform, the client didn't need to install or develop new tools. Each component on the Bluemix platform was used as a service and was already administered, backed up and monitored by the IBM team, allowing the client to easily and quickly determine any issues and resolve them.

The pay-as-you-go model and ability to calculate monthly payments in advance enabled BIZ DATA to streamline its cash flow and save on costs. And because the Bluemix platform resides on the SoftLayer environment, the client was confident that it would have around-the-clock service availability.