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Otto Bock HealthCare GmbH

On the Safe Side

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Thanks to the successful implementation of a license management system by SYCOR GmbH, the Duderstadt medtech company Otto Bock HealthCare GmbH now has optimum control of its licenses.

Companies spend millions on software licenses as intangible assets every year and are forced to deal with more and more complex license agreements. With a lack of functional management, it is easy for companies to lose their way in the license jungle. The consequences: insufficient legal protection, the acquisition of unnecessary licenses or high supplementary payments in case of under-licensing.

Complex License Situation

Issues surrounding proper licensing also cropped up at Otto Bock HealthCare GmbH. A wide variety of different software versions had been deployed on more than 2,200 PC workstations and 700 servers – without a central management system. This meant that determining licensing needs was an extremely challenging undertaking, which could only be realized with a substantial lead time. Numerous different software versions and contract types also made it more difficult for the company to utilize its software expediently and efficiently. Potential cost savings were difficult to identify and realize.

Risk Minimization

Otto Bock HealthCare GmbH ultimately decided to implement a professional license management solution, commissioning the Göttingen full-range IT service provider SYCOR GmbH for the implementation. "Our main goal was to obtain an exact inventory of all our licenses. Furthermore, the license status had to be transparent and available at all times," explains Mike König, Global Head of IT at Otto Bock HealthCare GmbH. Ensuring compliance with the applicable legal regulations, contract provisions and guidelines was also part of the objective. Last but not least, the company wanted to use existing software resources more effectively in order to reduce costs. >>>

Otto Bock HealthCare GmbH

Headquarters:
Duderstadt, Germany

Industry:
Medical technology

Products:
High-quality, technologicaly outstanding products and services in Orthobionic® and Bionicmobility®

Company size:
5,047 employees worldwide
583.2 million euros in sales (2011)

Web:
www.ottobock.de

Project
Holistic license management system

Benefits:

- Legal and corporate security

- Avoid over- or under-licensing

- Reduce it costs

- Central process of licensing

- Optimized software investments

- Prepared for external audits

Seamless Integration

Since Otto Bock HealthCare GmbH had previously implemented an asset management system, the license management tool had to meet specific requirements. „The compatibility of the USD solution from Computer Associates was one of the core requirements for the project. After we evaluated a suitable tool, we developed interfaces for the dynamic transfer of data from the CA systems USD and DSM. This allowed us to ensure that client license needs would be captured automatically," explains Dr. Thomas Brodag, Project Manager at SYCOR GmbH.

A Better Overview

The general project organization was presented and the project plan was approved at the kick-off meeting. License evaluation, the reconciliation between installed software and existing licenses on 2,262 PC workstations and 700 servers, was able to proceed shortly thereafter. The focus of the license inventory and documentation of the data was on the two main license partners Microsoft and Adobe. Next to the various license metrics – including device and CPU-based as well as virtualization – license types such as individual and volume licenses also had to be taken into account. Today the license management tool encompasses a comprehensive license contract management

model. All core business management data for an agreement as well as the maintenance contracts are documented and accessible at a click of the mouse. This information ultimately optimizes the procurement process of Otto Bock HealthCare GmbH. Regular reporting means the company always has an exact overview of its license status and forms the basis for external audits and meeting compliance requirements. In addition to the main site in Duderstadt, the branches in Great Britain and the Netherlands were integrated into the central license management solution in subsequent project phases.

Phased Roll-Out

In addition to improving processes and clarifying roles at Otto Bock HealthCare GmbH, the implementation of a license management system has led to the more effective use of existing software. „Thanks to this project, we now have full control over our software license inventory with the firm establishment of a central licensing process. This means we have legal certainty, since we are always able to see whether there is a concrete need for licensing action," Mike König says in conclusion. Plans are in place to expand license management to include other product versions, along with the gradual integration of other foreign branches of Otto Bock HealthCare GmbH.