Detailed Document Capture Serving Public Health

ABBYY®
Recognition Server

Boehringer Ingelheim conducts research, develops, produces, and distributes pharmaceutical products for people around the world. With 38,428 employees, working in 137 offices on all continents, Boehringer Ingelheim is one of the top international companies focusing on research.

Boehringer Ingelheim has gathered in its document management system an extensive archive, filled with product licensing documents. A large part of the archived documents are up to 50 year old, and created a backlog of 30 million pages. Searching for any specific information was cost intensive, difficult and time consuming, and the possibility of doing a full-text search did not exist. To solve the problem, Boehringer Ingelheim was looking for a solution, which would make existing data accessible for a full-text search, and offer the possibility to save new documents in a searchable format. Boehringer Ingelheim has developed an interface that is user-friendly and offers flexible search options. The basis for this solution is text recognition technology (Optical Character Recognition – OCR). Only the precise conversion of scanned documents into digital files could assure that the information was available for search at any time. Therefore, a powerful OCR solution was needed, which would offer recognition precision, stability, easy oversight, and good integration options.

After a comprehensive evaluation of OCR products currently available on the market, Boehringer Ingelheim chose ABBYY Recognition Server, a very scalable server-based solution based on ABBYY's award winning technology. The out-of-box OCR solution converts paper documents and images into text files and searchable PDFs. These files can later be categorised, archived, searched and saved in any desired document management system. Recognition Server was specifically designed to handle large amounts of documents. Recognition and conversion takes place on designated machines, while supervision is mainly conducted via a server manager. Incoming documents are automatically distributed to available processing stations and, in case one processing station is defect, its assignments will automatically be executed by another one. Implementing it as a service guarantees continuous availability, and that it can be used universally. Recognition Server has a flexible interface (API) that offers an easy to use and smooth integration to the already existing IT solution. The Management Console enables the person in charge at Boehringer Ingelheim to centrally define the parameters and administrate recognition stations, hereby determining the workflow of the specific workgroups and projects.

With this project, documents from the existing document management system are automatically read and recognised, and the results are attached as indexable reproductions to the original document. As Boehringer Ingelheim employees worldwide scan around 10,000 new pages a day, the newly scanned documents need to be handled with priority. ABBYY's Recognition Server plays a central role in this solution and represents the foundation for the solution.

The powerful interface made it easy to integrate in existing IT structures, and also in the everyday practise ABBYY Recognition Server proved valuable and convinced the users. Planning, testing and installing Recognition Server was concluded on time and within the desired budget, which meant that the system integration was launched in September 2007.
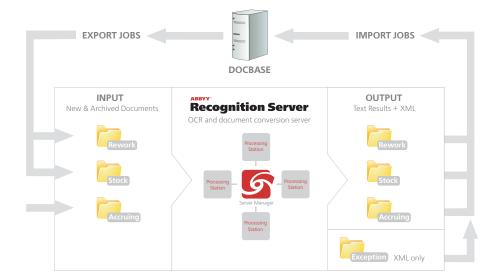

About Boehringer Ingelheim

Boehringer Ingelheim is a research-driven enterprise, which is geared to research, development and production as well as distribution of pharmaceuticals and improving health and quality of life worldwide. Its most important fields of activity include medical practices/clinics (prescription drugs), self-medication, bio-pharmaceutics and animal health. With 137 affiliated firms, Boehringer Ingelheim employs more than 38,000 workers world-wide. The enterprise instigates research facilities in new production plans in more than 20 countries around the globe. Its headquarters are located in Ingelheim, a city on the Rhein, where the firm was initially established in 1885.

Contact Boehringer Ingelheim

D-55216 Ingelheim am Rhein
Tel. +49 (0) 61 32 - 77 0
Fax +49 (0) 61 32 - 77 30 00
presse@boehringer-ingelheim.de
www.boehringer-ingelheim.de

For the Boehringer Ingelheim project, ABBYY Recognition Server was installed with 4 processing stations. The goal of this project is to recognise the archived documents within approximately 1 year. All new documents are also added to this system and Boehringer Ingelheim will therefore have, once this project is concluded, a complete archive with full-text searchable documents. Dr. Dirk Ehrhard, who is responsible for planning and implementing this project at Boehringer Ingelheim, is very delighted with the results achieved so far. *"Without the possibility of a full-text search, documents in any document management system can only be found with difficulty. Because of Recognition Server, we are now able to conduct a significantly better and faster information search. During the test phase, the recognition precision of ABBYY's technology particularly impressed us. With the help of this solution, employees at Boehringer Ingelheim are now able to find necessary information for their research and development purposes much more efficiently."*

About ABBYY

ABBYY (ABBYY Software House) develops linguistic and Artificial Intelligence (AI) software providing a full line of OCR and text-processing programs and solutions. ABBYY's products include: FineReader OCR systems – a family of end user programs and development tools for recognition of printed texts, tables and forms; FormReader – an ICR program for recognition and processing of hand-printed forms; and ABBYY FlexiCapture Studio – a software tool that helps to extract data from semi-structured forms and documents.

More information about ABBYY at www.ABBYY.com

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