



# *Element-System Rudolf Bohnacker: New profile with DB2 and Linux on IBM @server xSeries.*

A simple system to bring order and give you space – this is the idea behind the shelf systems by the company Element-System Rudolf Bohnacker GmbH. Metal wall-rails and supports are linked together by a plug-in system, and provide the basis for solid and open shelves that are easy to assemble and disassemble. An extensive range of accessories enabling an infinite variety of shelf shapes and sizes completes the system. Founded in 1954, the company produces the 1,500 available components itself. The system is particularly popular with do-it-yourself enthusiasts, who represent Element-System Rudolf Bohnacker's largest market. The flexible shelves are also used to display goods in the retail trade, and distribution here is managed by shop construction firms and interior designers. In the do-it-yourself sector, distribution is managed by the wholesale trade. In 2001, Element-System Rudolf Bohnacker, which has 570 employees, generated revenues of DM 90 million. Around 70% of its revenues are attributable to overseas markets: The shelf system is available in over 50 countries worldwide including the United States.

*“The decision to deploy DB2 was a strategic one. The database is fully scalable, is ideally suited to our requirements, and shows its full potential under Linux.”*

Georgios Paltoglou, IT manager,  
Element-System Rudolf Bohnacker  
GmbH

## **New SAP system for new challenges**

In 1999, the company's business processes were completely reorganized, and the company was restructured. The existing ERP system was no longer adequate to meet the new corporate objectives. In March 2000, the company accepted an offer from the international management consultancy Plaut to implement SAP on the IBM @server xSeries (formerly known as Netfinity®). Based on its core competencies – business management and IT – Plaut develops innovative business solutions characterized by flexible strategies, efficient organizational shapes, and powerful IT infrastructures. Plaut is an SAP global partner, and – with more than 1,400 SAP projects worldwide – is one of the most experienced consulting firms in SAP implementations. The project commenced in April 2000, when Element-System Rudolf Bohnacker was still manufacturing at its central location in Rottenacker and in Csöt in Hungary. During the project, a new plant was

<b>Industry</b>	Manufacturing
<b>Application</b>	mySAP.com®
<b>Software</b>	Linux® Microsoft® Windows® NT DB2® Lotus® Domino™ Lotus® Notes™ WebSphere® Tivoli®
<b>Hardware</b>	xSeries Server



opened as a result of the company's expansion, which required integration into the current implementation. This is where the additional benefits of the SAP system became evident: The software is multilingual, and can be deployed in Hungary without difficulty. And in the area of production planning, conditions for made-to-order production are ideal, as a simplified production structure for all three plants is enabled. As a result of the expansion, the number of SAP users rose to 100; in Csöt alone, 25 users access the system via a leased line. A total of 15,500 material masters had to be transferred to a new numbering system. After this, nothing stood in the way of the project's successful completion on 1. 1. 2001.

The system offers integrated sales planning, which can be accurately calculated right through to individual shop floor areas. It also includes long-term planning for planning data simulation, which for Element-System Rudolf Bohnacker alone entails around 150,000 data records. Complete mapping of the plants is possible, and the handling of goods movement between them, supported by warehouse management systems, is simplified. Assignment and control of production machinery runs in PP via a graphical control station, which prepares the detailed data optimally. The SAP system enables parallel planning and production for both made-to-order and mass production. Each variant has its own article number, enabling universal planning right down to materials, precise control of production orders for order entry, and exact availability checking. In controlling, detailed analysis of the target-actual situation can be performed, and product and customer data can be resolved via profitability analysis. Productivity has risen by 25 % with the new system, while stocks and lead times have been reduced by around 15 %. The transparent capacity situation also enables shift planning with a flexitime account.

### **New IT landscape with DB2, Linux, and xSeries**

Two xSeries servers are used as platform for the SAP system. The production system is equipped with 4 Intel® Pentium® Xeon™ processors, 4 GB RAM, and 150 GB disk storage Raid-5. It is used as database and application

server, and manages the 80 GB IBM DB2 database perfectly. The second, smaller server is used as a test system.

### **Well armed for the future**

In the future, the two servers will be connected via Fibre Channel to a Storage Area Network (SAN) with 5 additional servers. In the start phase, the SAN will be used with 300 GB, but is scalable to 2 TB. The SAN is controlled centrally via the Tivoli Storage Manager (TSM), which backs up the database online and the entire network automatically via an IBM Autoloader.

After a long history of Windows NT, Element-System Rudolf Bohnacker is now gradually migrating to Linux. The Lotus Domino server, which provides the connection to the Internet, is already running under Linux, as is the file and proxy server. Element-System Rudolf Bohnacker receives support in porting and ongoing operation of the IT systems from Plaut. The latter works with a Linux system on the xSeries, and accesses Element-System Rudolf Bohnacker's IT landscape.

“With Linux, we are opening up all possibilities: the simple administration, and the stability and scalability convince everyone. These features are best exploited on the xSeries servers. That's the reason for our goal: a server IT landscape running entirely under Linux on xSeries servers,” said Thomas Grimm, financial and accounting manager, and project manager at Element-System Rudolf Bohnacker GmbH.

### **New dimensions with WebSphere**

Element-System Rudolf Bohnacker is planning next to implement a B2B platform using EDI for the field sales force and distribution in the United States. The company then plans to begin trading online with the IBM WebSphere Commerce Suite. Its configurator extends the new Internet presence to the 3D platform, and enables customers to design their actual room using all the component parts of the shelf system. All necessary individual components are automatically listed here and, in the case of an order, can be passed directly to the SAP system via interfaces.

Thomas Grimm said: “With the IBM WebSphere Commerce Suite, we have found a solution that enables us to design our own individual corporate presence. With it, we can offer our customers personal service meeting our own quality claim. I would say it allows us to give our company a new profile. And together with DB2 and xSeries, we have a solution from IBM that will also allow us to create our own distinctive image in future.”



© Copyright IBM Corporation 2001

IBM Deutschland GmbH  
D-70548 Stuttgart  
[ibm.com/de](http://ibm.com/de)

IBM Österreich  
Obere Donaustrasse 95  
A-1020 Vienna  
[ibm.com/at](http://ibm.com/at)

IBM Schweiz  
Baendliweg 21, P.O. Box  
CH-8010 Zurich  
[ibm.com/ch](http://ibm.com/ch)

The IBM home page can be found on the Internet at:  
[ibm.com](http://ibm.com)

IBM, the IBM logo, @server logo, XSeries, DB2, WebSphere, Lotus and Tivoli are trademarks or registered trademarks of IBM Corporation in the United States, other countries, or both.

SAP and mySAP.com are registered trademarks of SAP AG.

Intel, Pentium and Xeon are trademarks of Intel Corporation in the United States, other countries, or both.

Microsoft, Windows, Windows NT, and the Windows logo are registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation in the United States, other countries, or both.

Linux is a registered trademark of Linus Torvalds.

Other company, product, and service names may be trademarks or service marks of others.

This customer story is based on information provided by Element-System Rudolf Bohnacker and illustrates how one organisation uses IBM products. Many factors may have contributed to the results and benefits described; IBM does not guarantee comparable results elsewhere.