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SEEBURGER Cloud Integration Services for B2B/EDI

Keeping B2B/EDI Processes Running While Migrating to SAP S/4HANA

By switching to SAP S/4HANA as a pivotal transformation project and business enabler for the Hirschvogel Group's increasingly complex world, the innovative automotive supplier has laid the groundwork for the Group's future business development and competitiveness. Within this project, Hirschvogel addressed their B2B integration needs at an early stage with their long-standing integration partner SEEBURGER. This meant that electronic data exchange (B2B/EDI), the backbone of digital communication in the supply chain, remained secure and stable during migration.

Reducing the risk, complexity and workload of integrating B2B with S/4HANA

Downtime would be disastrous for the globally active Hirschvogel Group, whether in their ERP or in their B2B/EDI environment, the main link to the manufacturers' production lines. It was important that the S/4HANA migration at nine locations in six countries, as complex and resource intensive as it was, did not affect operations.

The key to the smooth, risk-minimized migration was early, systematic planning, including for the Group's B2B/EDI processes, which SEEBURGER had been providing as a fully managed services for a number of years prior. As a close partner to SAP, SEEBURGER supports connectivity to SAP S/4HANA in a variety of ways, taking a lot of stress out of a complex integration project.

About the Hirschvogel Group

The Hirschvogel Group is a global leader in the manufacturing and finishing of solid formed steel and aluminum components for the automotive industry and its suppliers. With around 6,500 employees in nine plants around the globe, the company supplies renowned automotive manufacturers and first-tier suppliers with technically sophisticated, ready-to-install components, characterized by high quality and durability.
www.hirschvogel.com

“As usual, we were able to rely on SEEBURGER's expertise for the B2B/EDI processes with our customers, so that the status for this aspect remained green throughout the entire comprehensive project.”

Matthias Zimmermann, Global EDI Coordinator at Hirschvogel

Migrating to SAP S/4HANA while keeping B2B/EDI operations running

The new EDI system landscape would be activated at the same time as the new SAP S/4HANA system went live. The previous EDI system landscape remained unaffected by the migration and the 14-month tests. As the SAP S/4 system needed to be reinstalled before each of the three test phases, it was important to be able to conduct the tests in a timely fashion without setting up new, additional connections to the SEEBURGER system landscape.

A solid foundation for an ERP system switch

- Following many years of using the SEEBURGER Automotive Solution and SEEBURGER double conversion in their mapping strategy, Hirschvogel already had a stable foundation for making changes to its ERP interface.
- As SEEBURGER could decouple external and internal formats, only the process mappings need to be changed during the ERP migration. Connections to business partners remained untouched.
- Throughout, the SEEBURGER Fully Managed B2B/EDI Service ensured that the B2B/EDI was kept fully up to date.

A speedy yet stealthy system switch

Hirschvogel were able to make the actual switch in just a few steps and with no impact on their partners:

1. We started by copying the existing B2B/EDI productive system and designating it a new, standalone “EDI S/4 test system”.
2. We then agreed a change freeze with the EDI partners in which no one would make any changes. Unavoidable changes were applied directly to the S/4 system.
3. We minimized risk from the beginning through comprehensively testing the B2B/EDI processes and messages on the new B2B/EDI system based on customizing the ERP system as required.
4. We then simply switched the communication path from the SEEBURGER B2B/EDI Fully Managed Service to SAP S/4HANA and the temporary test system become the new productive system from the beginning of the four-day go live phase. External B2B/EDI partners remained unaffected by the system switch and didn’t need to make any changes to their connections to Hirschvogel.
5. We completed the EDI subproject on time and in budget.

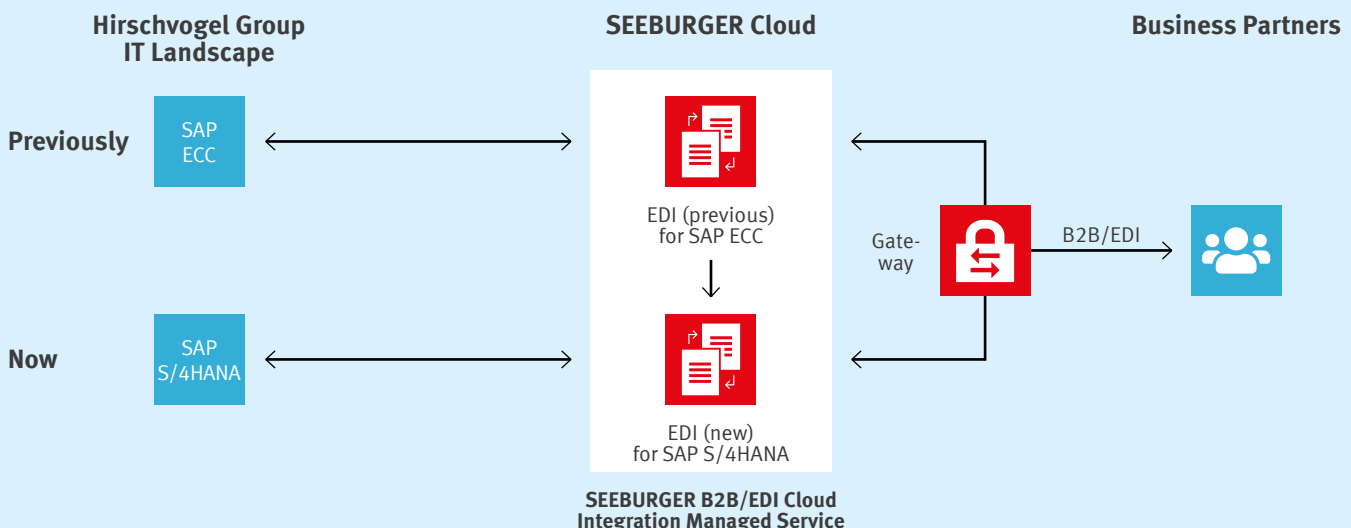
Advantages for the Hirschvogel Group

SEEBURGER’s integration concept

- Out-of-the-box connectivity with preconfigured, ready-to-use, partner mappings drawing on extensive industry know-how
- This reduces the number of new mappings, leading to a smoother migration from SAP ECC to SAP S/4HANA
- Not to mention lower risk

Reliable B2B/EDI processes during ERP migration by

- Treating ERP and B2B/EDI as two separate projects
- Simultaneously setting up the new EDI and ERP environments
- Incorporating intensive testing for all internal interfaces
- With no impact on partners.



SEEBURGER supported the Hirschvogel Group with stable B2B/EDI processes while migrating to S/4HANA.