DATEV MODERNIZES ANALYTICS

FROM OUTDATED SOFTWARE TO STREAMLINED AGILITY WITH ALTAIR SLC™

About the Customer

DATEV is a German IT company that provides trusted software solutions designed for tax consultants, lawyers, auditors, small and medium-sized enterprises, municipalities, and start-ups. DATEV's tools meet the highest standards for reliability, up-to-date compliance, data protection, and security — empowering professionals across industries to work with confidence and efficiency. The company's main goals are to support its more than 40,000 members and their 750,000 clients with software and services for financial accounting, taxes, payroll, and other services.

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> Migrating from SAS/MXG to Altair SLC and integrating SLC in a zCX environment was a challenging task. However, this transition enabled us to be much more agile in development and respond more quickly to implementation with new code.

Thomas Engler,
Product Owner DATEV

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Their Challenge

For years, DATEV relied on SAS/MXG for system management facilities (SMF) data processing across both z/OS and SAS-Linux environments. Business-critical processes – including hourly production jobs and internal chargeback calculations – were tightly integrated with custom programs written in native SAS language.

However, the SAS language environment became increasingly difficult to maintain. Managed by a separate, siloed team, they suffered years of limited support and a severely outdated implementation on z/OS. As operational risk and technical debt grew, the team made the strategic decision to move away from utilizing the SAS language entirely.

Our Solution

To assess the scope of migrating from SAS/MXG, the team began by conducting a comprehensive source code analysis. The evaluation showed strong compatibility between DATEV's existing native SAS processes on z/OS and Altair SLC, an alternative SAS language environment and part of the Altair RapidMiner platform, making those components relatively straightforward to transition. However, the chargeback processing workflows – built using no-code/low-code implementations on SAS Linux – presented a more complex challenge and would require manual migration.

Despite this, DATEV chose to move forward with a full migration to Altair SLC, replacing all jobs and processes previously handled by SAS/MXG. The transition of native SAS code was smooth, requiring only minimal adjustments. In contrast, migrating the intricate chargeback workflows – reliant on multiple SMF data sources – demanded more effort due to their complexity and custom logic.

To modernize DATEV's infrastructure and gain hands-on experience with zCX, the team opted to deploy Altair SLC as a Docker container within IBM's z/OS Container Extensions (zCX) environment. While containerizing and deploying the solution in zCX presented some initial technical challenges, the product now runs reliably in this setup and has become a stable part of DATEV's new processing architecture.

Results

With Altair SLC and DATEV's associated processes now fully managed by a single, unified team, the company eliminated long-standing issues tied to outdated software versions and compatibility gaps with newer MXG releases. This consolidation significantly improved its agility — enabling faster development cycles and more responsive updates to the implementation.

A key milestone in this transformation was the successful Docker-based deployment. Rather than opting for a traditional Linux setup, DATEV packaged the product as a Docker container and deployed it within a zCX environment alongside its remaining SAS processes. This approach proved highly effective, offering a flexible and maintainable solution. It also empowered DATEV to streamline updates and environment changes using its own Docker build pipeline, setting the foundation for a more modern, scalable architecture.

Altair RapidMiner helped DATEV smoothly modernize its infrastructure with minimal adjustments. To learn more about Altair RapidMiner, please visit **altair.com/altair-rapidminer.**