

Intelligent Kitchen Stories – ProSyst and V-ZUG AG

Being the number one white goods manufacturer in Switzerland, V-ZUG AG develops, produces, and sells high-quality white goods for kitchens and bathrooms. Approximately every second Swiss household owns a device manufactured by V-ZUG AG. Innovation and quality are V-ZUG's driving forces to satisfy its customers.

The Challenge

Inspired by the ideas of the "smart home" trend, V-ZUG AG was looking for a competent partner to develop a smart home solution for the Swiss market. The goal to offer its customers more flexibility, comfort, and innovation needed to be reached quickly and efficiently. Keeping this goal in mind, V-ZUG AG soon decided that the final solution had to be based on OSGi technology.

The Solution

After a detailed evaluation of all technology providers, V-ZUG AG chose ProSyst Software AG, because ProSyst has extensive market knowledge and technology experience, a broad variety of ready-to-use products, and the most sophisticated OSGi technology on the market. Based on ProSyst's smart home suite, Both partners developed an innovative and extendable solution for Swiss kitchens within eight months. The first networked device will be the V-ZUG Microbraun SLP (MSLP) oven with an integrated microwave, menu memory, and cookbook.

The Features

After the successful integration of ProSyst's OSGi-based software into the gateway, the MSLP is now remotely controllable and maintainable. A web pad can be used to set or change the oven's baking or heating time, while new software parameters can be carried out remotely and on-the-fly.

Remote control is enabled via the EHS powerline protocol, so that no new wires have to be installed.

EHS turns the internal power supply into a network for remote access of devices using web pads, handhelds or the Internet. In order to ensure interoperability with devices from different white goods manufacturers as well as to meet safety requirements, the V-ZUG smart home solution is based on International Standards and Specifications.



Remember the Menu

Another application includes the extension of the oven's recipe functionality. Using this application, the user can save, use, or change built-in, customized or downloaded recipes. 120 recipes are delivered with the oven and 30 additional slots can be programmed with downloadable recipes from the V-ZUG AG Website or from any other service provider. In the future, it will be possible to easily and quickly transfer new recipes to the oven, as well as to share recipes online with others or to modify existing recipes and save the new version on the oven.

Markus Bühler, Project Manager at V-ZUG AG, comments: "During the preparation of this project, we quickly decided that the final solution had to be based on OSGi technology. This is why we started cooperating with ProSyst, because ProSyst has the most profound experience plus a broad variety of ready-to-use products. The combination of this competence and technology will lead to an increasing number of our Swiss customers' households being equipped with ZUGHome products in the near future."

ProSyst Inside

The OSGi-based gateway that is used to control the innovative oven includes customized as well as new software components from ProSyst's Smart Home Suite, which were especially developed for this solution. It provides home appliance manufacturers and service providers with a reliable and platform-independent solution that focuses on the key requirements for building a connected home:

- Remote diagnostics, maintenance and servicing of devices from home appliance manufacturers
- Dynamic deployment and life-cycle management of viable e-services
- Remote control of home networked devices by consumers via the Internet
- Rich and intuitive interfaces enabling user interaction for communication with home networks and the external world

The UI: As user-friendly as it gets



The gateway comes with a photo-realistic graphical user interface which corresponds to the look & feel of the "real" oven. Even a virtual rotary knob has been graphically designed and can be used on the oven. An outstanding feature is that the presentation layer has been clearly separated from the device logic, so that the UI can be further developed, changed or enhanced by professional designers, who don't need to have any knowledge about gateways or the OSGi specification. The solution is based on ProSyst's Portal Package, using standard web technology, which allows the UI of the oven to be displayed on any device that includes a browser, such as a PC, PDA, or a mobile phone.

Andreas Kleinert, Project Manager at ProSyst Software AG: "The user interface has been a challenge which we mastered within a very short time frame. We are proud of having developed a highly user-friendly graphical user interfaces available on the market. The customers of V-ZUG AG will quickly notice the extreme comfort and very easy handling of this solution."

Why ProSyst?

V-ZUG AG chose ProSyst's products due to the following advantages:

- Ready-to-use, highly stable, standardized and proven solution, based on the latest OSGi specification;
- Best support, fast professional services and active technology transfer;
- Experience with various white goods projects;
- ProSyst-based white good solutions are already available on the market;
- Highly scalable remote administration platform with a broad variety of remote functions;
- Standards-compliance and openness to 3rd party solutions.

The Conclusion

Teaming up with ProSyst Software AG has proven to be the perfect decision. By integrating ProSyst's solution into its new product offering, V-ZUG AG has staked its claim as one of the innovators in the white goods market. For more information and to learn more about what ProSyst can do to make your project a success, please contact ProSyst at sales@prosyst.com or phone +49-221-6604-0.

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