Roger Zimmermann,
Head of Computer Science,
Swiss Technical College Winterthur

# THE STFW HAS OPTED FOR *DAYLIGHT.*

## At a glance

**The Swiss Technical School Winterthur (STFW) is one of the leading further education institutes for technical professions in German-speaking Switzerland. The school management software which was originally developed in-house, but now over 20 years old, could not be adapted to current requirements without unreasonable expense. The STFW replaced these with the daylight school, course and event management solution from the Winterthur company daylight AG.**

**daylight enabled the STFW to centralise and significantly optimise existing course administration processes. Financial accounting and other systems were integrated via interfaces. The STFW will soon be tackling the implementation of the daylight Web front-end as well as the integration of e-learning, lesson planning and grade management.**

**The Swiss Technical College Winterthur (STFW) faced a great challenge: The somewhat outdated core application, with which all training modules, schedules, lecturers and course students were managed and the billing was handled, urgently needed to be replaced by a future-proof new solution. With the daylight school, course and event management solution from Winterthur's daylight AG, this Herculean task was successfully mastered.**

## STFW - the leading further education institute for technical professions

The Swiss Technical School Winterthur (STFW) is one of the leading further education institutes for technical professions in German-speaking Switzerland. It focuses on the six areas of automotive engineering, electrical engineering, communications technology, building technology, advanced technical college and staff training, and it cooperates closely with leading professional and industry associations. It offers higher professional qualifications, Swiss federal degrees as well as company, certificate, refresher and short courses, as well as inter-company courses in vocational education. Each year around 10,000 women and men attend courses and courses at the STFW that are geared to the needs of the practice and where the principle of "learning by doing" is at the forefront.

## Wanted: a future-proof new core application

"Our more than 20-year-old solution could not have been adapted to today's requirements without unreasonable expense," says IT manager Roger Zimmermann. "We were presented with the challenge of replacing our core application, with which we manage all training modules, appointments, lecturers and course students as well as handle the entire billing, with a future-proof new solution." The aim was to provide a user-friendly solution that can be used to map and optimise processes, and to easily integrate best-of-class solutions and existing peripheral systems. Further requirements were the geographical proximity of the provider and a long-standing commitment. The school, course and event management solution from daylight AG emerged victorious from a multi-stage evaluation process.

## Open architecture allows for flexibility

"So that we don't overwhelm our users, we are releasing the individual functional modules of daylight in a structured way," explains the IT manager. Currently, STFW manages all 500 basic and further training modules, 3000 course students, including grades, as well as all staff and lecturers with daylight.

For accounting, Abacus was connected via the existing standard interface. For the very complex timetabling, the school continues to use its own scheduling tool. The timetables created there are then transferred to daylight for the actual appointment management. The IT manager describes the open architecture of daylight as an ideal solution: "daylight is our stable and lean core application that makes all data centrally available and covers the most important functions. For specific tasks we connect dedicated tools via interfaces." Currently 10 employees from administration, finance, sales and marketing work with daylight

## "WITH DAYLIGHT WE COULD IMPLEMENT NEW TECHNOLOGIES QUICKLY AND FREE OF ERRORS, AND OPTIMISE OUR PROCESSES."

Roger Zimmermann
Head of Computer Science,
Swiss Technical College, Winterthur

every day. In a few months, the 250 lecturers of the STFW will also manage grades and absences in full within daylight. And the next expansion step is already planned: The web front-end is to be implemented so that the range of courses can be published more easily and to relieve internal course administration through self-service functions.

## The ambitious goals have been achieved or exceeded

The ambitious goals as set were fully achieved, according to Roger Zimmermann. Thanks to daylight, the data previously isolated in individual data silos are centrally available for the entire organisation and can be efficiently managed. The IT manager noted further improvements: "We were able to centralise and optimise several processes. daylight's analysis and evaluation functions support us in tender planning and marketing. The connection to financial accounting works exceptionally well - we were able to simplify the invoicing process significantly." But he also points out: "The biggest challenge when introducing a new IT solution in a large organisation is usually not technically-related. It is the users who do not like getting used to it." The IT manager praises the high stability of daylight and the responsiveness of the daylight team in support inquiries. "I have my own personal point of contact at daylight AG. Through this single point of contact, I can place requests and support inquiries directly and normally get an answer very quickly. » When the question of future expansion steps is raised, Roger Zimmermann once again talks about the open architecture of daylight: "In addition to the web front-end, we will mainly be dealing with daylight's support of school operations in the near future. We will integrate the online learning platform Moodle and the external tools for entering grades and timetabling in daylight."

**daylight**