

# Case Story



## Lean-On case story - Babcock & Wilcox Vølund: Energy Sector



### COMOS Plant Engineering Software - Empowered by Lean-On Application Accelerator™

**During the spring of 2012, Babcock & Wilcox Vølund (Vølund) initiated a process optimization in the engineering departments of the organization.**

The aim was to achieve greater consistency in IT and remove decentralized and manual systems, in order to support the business operation. Subsequently a steering committee was commissioned the task of finding a suitable IT system, based on the terms and requirements of top management.

After a lengthy selection process, the choice fell on the COMOS Plant Engineering Software from Siemens. In connection with the purchase of the COMOS platform, the steering committee had several meetings with Siemens. The internal IT department in Esbjerg decided to develop the skills and knowledge on how to deploy and maintain

COMOS in a centralized IT environment.

For a period of two months, many different configurations were tested and finally it was decided that "2-3 users" were to test COMOS on a Microsoft Remote Desktop Service solution capable of handling graphics. Several issues emerged quickly, and test users reported back that they were unable to operate the COMOS application via the IT environment provided. The graphics were poor, and the menus in the COMOS application did not have a prompt reaction to a mouse click, due to latency issues.

#### ***A Brainstorm in the IT Department - Severe Pain Points***

IT Manager Jørgen Pedersen explains: "Shortly



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Jørgen Pedersen,  
Department  
Manager, IT  
– Babcock & Wilcox  
Vølund

before the summer holiday an ongoing brainstorming session in the IT department was initiated in order to clarify, how we were to proceed with the COMOS project. All the actions/tests we had undertaken for the previous two months were analyzed, and we concluded that we could not have done the process differently. Hence, the COMOS application was named "The Cumbersome Application".

Jørgen Pedersen looks back: "For me as an IT manager, it is a critical situation in relation to the business operation when the users end up in a non-productive situation, and my IT staff is left with the feeling that the COMOS users are not satisfied with the user experience and performance, no matter which actions they take. At this point in time, we had purchased COMOS licenses in the excess of DKK 1 Million and had consumed 200+ hours in the IT department, as well as a significant amount for external consultancy services. The situation became very critical for Vølund."

### **The Turning Point**

Jørgen Pedersen continues: "Shortly before my summer vacation I forwarded a shortlist of companies with top-end skills in centralized solutions to an employee in the IT department. This particular employee had been involved in the project from the very start."

Upon his return Jørgen Pedersen was met by a well-described document from the technology company Lean-On A/S, concerning the implementation of an Application Accelerator including Citrix HDX 3D and the deployment of COMOS at Vølund.

At that point in time, Vølund never had any experience with Lean-On, so this issue and challenge was two-sided. Jørgen explains: "We partly had to relate to what for us was an unknown potential technology and we partly had to trust a new technology partner. We were unsure, what kind of solution Lean-On could bring to the table at this point."

After multiple and long conversations with the technical management at Lean-On, it was decided to use Lean-On for containing and deploying "The Cumbersome Application" and the agreement was signed.

### **The Conclusion: An Outstanding Impact**

The configuration of the Citrix HDX platform was completed at the end of August 2012 as a POC. Jørgen Pedersen remembers the reactions from the users: "From the day the users could access the new platform, we saw an entire new momentum. We obtained positive feedback and responses from everybody in the organization, right from local users, to branch office and home users. Agility in business operations had returned, and full support of the business operation had been achieved. We had set a new bar for the delivery of optimal productivity. For the IT department, it meant one central point for global delivery of COMOS as a service."

The solution went from Proof of Concept into production overnight due to the demand from the business operation. The POC infrastructure was expanded to its maximum in its premature form, and the number of users grew on a daily basis.

The solution is still in operation today, 2 years later, with the same configuration, and is used by up to 40 concurrent COMOS users on a daily basis. One element that has impressed Jørgen Pedersen the most, has been the enablement of scalability. From 2-3 test users, Vølund easily increased the number of users due to the unique concepts and technologies from Citrix and Lean-On.

Simplicity is the key-factor. The platform of the COMOS installation is based on a few HP Workstations, each with NVIDIA graphics cards, and all configured using the Lean-On best practice methodology. It has been proven to work seamlessly. Jørgen Pedersen elaborates on his reflections: "Hardware



which could hardly operate one single user, became fast with the modifications made by Lean-On. The same slow unit was suddenly able to serve multiple concurrent users, persistently delivering a unique user experience. On average, Vølund uses less than 10-15 hours pr. month on the administration of Citrix and management of the COMOS application, including new versions required by the business.

### **The Future**

With the great results from the light version of the Application Accelerator a foundation was made for the future. Jørgen Pedersen has now incorporated in his application delivery strategy that all applications - engineering as well as standard applications - are to be delivered by the Lean-On Application Accelerator Platform™. With a new generation of a modern desktop platform, Jørgen Pedersen concludes: "We are working to create a global centralized desktop environment deployed in our datacenter. No matter the device or task, the only access is via Citrix HDX. The goal is to increase our support ability for the business. Our aim of greater consistency of our IT systems has been achieved."

### **The Solution**

The solution at Vølund is based on the Lean-On Application Accelerator Platform™. The Lean-On Application Accelerator™ takes the best technologies from leading vendors and combine/consolidate them into a lean IT system with unlimited speed and capacity. The Lean-On Application Accelerator™ accelerates not only COMOS, but supports all leading engineering applications such as AutoDesk, Solidworks, Aveva and others.

The Accelerator delivers a reduction in latency by up to 90 % compared to a traditional datacenter, and is designed to increase the user experience by multiple factors, resulting in a significant increase of productivity pr. employee. Application Accelerator users report speed gains of more than 300% compared to traditional well working IT solutions. The Lean-On Application Accelerator Platform™ comes as an affordable managed service, a private cloud that creates predictability in performance and budgets.

## **About Babcock & Wilcox Vølund**

Babcock & Wilcox Vølund is a global leading supplier of biomass-and-waste to-energy solutions.

Babcock & Wilcox Vølund (Vølund) is headquartered in Esbjerg, Denmark, with a branch office in the Copenhagen region. Since 2000 Vølund have been owned 100% by Babcock & Wilcox Power Generation Group, Inc. in Ohio, USA. In 2009 Vølund acquired the leading Swedish flue gas treatment company Götaverken Miljö AB (GMAB), making them one of the world's most reliable suppliers of efficient and environmentally sound waste-to-energy as well as biomass energy plants. Vølund operates on a global scale delivering turnkey solutions world wide. For more information: [www.volund.dk](http://www.volund.dk)

## **About Lean-On A/S**

Lean-On is a leading IT solution provider of network centric and centralized solutions. Bringing IT back to the essentials, the solutions supplied address what the users are expecting from the IT operation. The solutions from Lean-On simplify IT, enabling the IT operation to create solutions that support the organization right away. They increase productivity and agility for the users, while meeting corporate requirements for security and scalability.

The Lean-On Application Accelerator Platform™ is an all-inclusive IT appliance that will bring back your ability to serve the user. The technology manages not only all types of applications included in high-end engineering such as CAD and CFD, but also ERP and BI. The Accelerator delivers a centrally deployed environment, including high-end speed and capacity. Lifecycle management of user applications becomes a simple operation supporting the business and market demands the best way possible.

For more information:  
[www.lean-on.com](http://www.lean-on.com)