

# Volkswagen Financial Services

SMAX and AWS enable operational excellence and provide cost savings while improving customer service management processes.

### Who is Volkswagen Financial Services?

Volkswagen Financial Services (VWFS) has been an integral part of the Volkswagen Group for over 70 years. Active in nearly 50 markets and employing over 16,500 people, it is the world's largest automotive financial services provider.

### SMAX Supports Operational Excellence Initiative

When VWFS employees needed a new laptop, or a virtual server, or even hand soap or office supplies, they placed these orders by phone. However, in today's world people expect a

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**PAULINA OTTE**

Project Manager  
Volkswagen Financial Services

Google or Amazon-like user experience where an internal company service is just a couple of clicks away. So, as part of a group-wide operational excellence initiative, the organization decided to simplify and automate recurring processes, to reduce cost and improve its service delivery. It also supports a 'shift-left' approach, transferring service desk activities to the portal and enabling sophisticated self-serve opportunities for end users.

Paulina Otte, Project Manager at VWFS, explains further: "We already use Micro Focus Service Manager to organize our backend fulfillment processes and this contains all our relevant business logic. In discussion with our partner Materna we explored building on this to create a cloud-based portal frontend. Materna specializes in secure and flexible cloud infrastructure and is ideally placed to support this initiative."

Marika Hruszka, Project Lead for Materna, takes up the story: "We recommended Micro Focus SMAX, the next generation ITSM solution. It is based on embedded machine learning and analytics and is cloud-ready which is perfect, as we felt an Amazon Web Services (AWS) cloud implementation of the portal would work very well."



## VOLKSWAGEN FINANCIAL SERVICES

THE KEY TO MOBILITY

### At a Glance

- **Industry**

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Automotive Finance
- **Location**

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Germany
- **Challenge**

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Leverage valuable service management business logic while moving to a more intuitive and flexible ITSM platform to enable self-service
- **Products and Services**

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Micro Focus SMAX  
Micro Focus Service Manager  
Micro Focus Operations Orchestration
- **Success Highlights**

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  - + Modern, intuitive self-service portal for more than 12,000 employees
  - + Strategic implementation of AWS cloud infrastructure providing enhanced system security
  - + Improved helpdesk productivity with more streamlined IT support
  - + Simplification of ordering and fulfillment processes increasing speed and agility

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**MARIKA HRUSZKA**

Project Lead  
Materna

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## Agile Workflow Development and Enhanced Security

SMAX is based on modern and innovative container technology which eased the implementation process. The project team relied on agile methods with continuous testing by developers and users throughout the development process. Testing software at an early stage helps to find errors in the application early and fix them in a timely manner. Materna also managed the cloud environment set up and drafted a security concept, including comprehensive monitoring and disaster recovery. The team then used a custom-designed component to automate the roll-out of the web front end in various stages, i.e., development, consolidation, and production with SMAX being implemented on AWS infrastructure.

Leveraging many years of ITIL know-how, Materna implemented workflows for how new services are integrated into the service catalog and then transferred to the portal. Backend processes have also been integrated and additional workflows regulate the status queries and the interaction with the end users, both within the portal as well as during the order fulfillment. “Improving security was a key objective of this project,” comments Marika Hruszka. “The AWS infrastructure was connected to an existing VWFS data center via AWS Direct Connect which creates a dedicated network connection to AWS. Within this infrastructure we carried out security analyses using AWS Inspector to systematically rule out possible system gaps or vulnerabilities. The production environment was secured using AWS Shield and the AWS Web Application Firewall



to prevent possible DDOS attacks and rule out unauthorized external access. The hybrid application relies on Service Manager at the back end, with SMAX providing the fully integrated AWS browser-based portal.”

## Improved Helpdesk Productivity and Future Automation Plans

The international self-service portal ‘FS.Get’ was launched and globally approximately 12,000 VWFS employees can access the portal. Employees can open tickets for IT malfunctions, report IT security incidents, or request application access. SMAX flexibly offers IT and non-IT services, including office furniture, multi-media equipment, water dispensers, and office supplies. At the same time developers can request infrastructure services such as virtual Windows servers, backup services and databases, or activation of a load balancing server for web components in case a higher volume of customer requests is expected. In total over 200 different services and products are available to employees. A standardized and automated order process is supported by

intuitive application forms. The system stores clear approval processes to always ensure a real-time transparent status of each request.

Paulina Otte says: “The Materna experts gave us detailed advice on AWS and SMAX, ensuring an efficient global self-service implementation. The development is ongoing, and we regularly publish new services with Materna’s support. Helpdesk employees now focus on value-add activities, as users perform standard services, such as password resets, themselves.”

She concludes: “Now that we have this great SMAX-based portal in place on AWS, we plan many more optimizations, such as automated billing which will save users even more time. We will also integrate an existing knowledge management platform to allow seamless access to a broad knowledge base.” We are pleased with the partnership between VWFS, Materna, and Micro Focus. Together we have contributed to improving the operational excellence of the entire VW Group.”