

# Authorization management – legal certainty and correctness

## Success Story NORDWEST



**Initial situation:** As a listed company, NORDWEST is subject to various legal requirements. This affects company and customer data, for example the German Commercial Code, the Federal Data Protection Act (BDSG) and the generally accepted IT-supported accounting principles. “Our paramount objective, and what we demand from our own work, is therefore to secure the high quality of our services, especially for our customers and investors, on a permanent basis,” says Stefan Lenzian.

Structures that have grown up historically are often an underestimated hindrance in preparing optimal and consistently reliable processes at many companies. The scope of authorizations holds special risk potential, since the complex role concepts are difficult to manage with the standard resources in SAP systems. Authorization management turned out to be a risk factor at NORDWEST, as this was not clearly structured and had been difficult to manage over time.

**Project goal:** To prevent segregation of duties (SoD) problems and other issues, NORDWEST decided to re-inspect the existing SAP system, especially authorization management and renew the role-based concept.

“In the scope of authorization management, SAP provides the standard with limited opportunities for managing and displaying roles and risks.

Due to the modular structure of the SAST SUITE, we will continue to benefit from significantly reduced effort and clear documentation.”

**STEFAN LENZIAN**  
Head of System Maintenance  
NORDWEST Handel AG

**Project implementation:** In the first step, the AKQUINET consultant team reviewed the existing authorizations and analyzed possible critical combinations (SoD), as many user authorizations are often too generous. The SAST SUITE from AKQUINET identified these critical combinations, providing a quick overview of all useful permissions and showed areas for improvement

NORDWEST took advantage of SAST Role Management via its extensive predefined SoD matrix while evaluating the new role allocation. The SAST SUITE thus allowed rapid installation of the database at NORDWEST, and took into consideration external guidelines as well as internal rules for functions. For continuous monitoring of all SoD, NORDWEST relies on SAST User Access Management. Role planning will continue to be refined with this.

**Project result:** “Rather than repeatedly fixing occasional irregularities in role management, we have used the SAST SUITE to completely overhaul our authorization structures. In this way, we save time and money in the long term, and can be sure of legal compliance,” says Stefan Lenzian of NORDWEST in summary.

### ✓ At a glance:

- **The SAP standard was not sufficient for the customer requirements in role and risk management**
- **SAST SUITE fulfills all legal requirements – for listed companies as well**
- **Comprehensive SoD matrix with predefined roles enables faster database setup**
- **The AKQUINET technical design provides clear rules for continually maintaining structures**
- **Up to 90 % faster project implementation due to the modular structure of the SAST SUITE**

### ⊕ Advantages for NORDWEST:

- **Transparent risk assessment**
- **Considerable time savings for role assignment and maintenance**
- **Overview of all user roles in the company**
- **Reliable prevention of segregation of duties (SoD)**
- **Lower administrative costs and efforts**



**NW NORDWEST**

NORDWEST Handel AG has been making its name in the German wholesale sector for nearly 100 years and stands for a reliable partnership with trading companies and producers in Germany and Europe. The company was founded in 1919 as a dealer network which wanted to achieve advantageous conditions through joint purchasing. Besides purchasing, NORDWEST, located in Dortmund, Germany, now also offers its over 1,000 specialist dealers comprehensive services for finance, logistics, IT and sales.

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