

customer care solutions

from Nuance



case study :: HypoVereinsbank

One of Germany's Largest Private Bank
Boosts Call Center Efficiency and Customer
Satisfaction with a Nuance Speech-Driven
Telephone Banking System



the company

HypoVereinsbank (HVB), a member of the UniCredit Group, is the one of the largest private sector bank in Germany, with more than five percent market share, 26,000 employees, 731 branches and over four million customers. The bank's core competencies span retail banking, corporate banking, commercial real estate financing, wealth management, and international capital market business.

the challenge

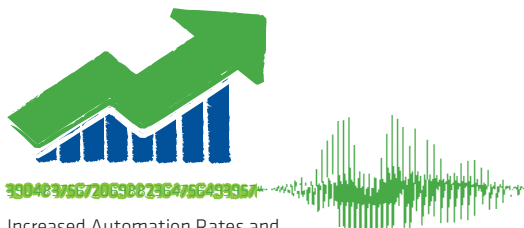
HVB, like all members of the UniCredit Group, is committed to providing its customers with fast, innovative, and high-quality solutions across all its business segments. When UniCredit merged the customer service operations of HVB and Bank Austria in 2005, it seized the opportunity to take customer care to a whole new level. The company realized that call center agents' ability to provide highly efficient and personalized customer service for their increasing customer base was limited without self-service support for phone banking transactions and related services. HVB Direkt — the company that oversees call center services on behalf of HypoVereinsbank — set out to deliver a state-of-the-art speech-driven customer interaction telephone solution that would integrate into the banks' existing call center environment and support agents in conducting banking transactions and related services.



A primary goal for HVB's new system was to automate routine over-the-phone customer service transactions, thereby reducing the number of calls handled by agents and driving down call center costs without compromising the customer experience. This required that the new solution deliver exceptional speech recognition performance and a natural, conversational voice interface design. It was also imperative that the system include computer telephony integration (CTI) as a means of reducing agent talk time and assisting call center staff in cross-selling and up-selling products for bottom-line impact.

the solution

After evaluating proposals from a number of major international vendors, UniCredit and HVB Direkt chose Siemens as the main contractor and project manager for its new telephone banking system. CreaLog, a leading provider of voice dialog systems in Europe, was selected to design and develop customer interaction applications using Nuance Recognizer speech recognition software from Nuance Communications.



Increased Automation Rates and Customer Service Through State-of-the-art Speech Recognition Featuring Acoustic Models and Natural Language Dialog

Nuance Recognizer is a best-of-breed speech recognition solution that drives higher business performance through more efficient self-service solutions that increase automation rates and improve customer satisfaction. Using state-of-the-art acoustic models and natural language dialog, Nuance Recognizer provides unprecedented accuracy, reliability and ease of use to help callers resolve issues or complete transactions on their first contact. CreaLog designed the voice user interface, including call flow and dialog prompts, to optimize self-service interactions for a superior caller experience.

Using Nuance Recognizer's sophisticated speech recognition capabilities, the telephone banking system authenticates HVB customers by asking for their account number, date of birth, and PIN number. Authenticated callers are prompted for information to determine the purpose of their call — whether they wish to request information, conduct a transaction, or resolve an issue. Based on their responses, the system either guides the callers through a self-service interaction or transfers them to a live agent for assistance.

If the caller's request requires live assistance, the system automatically transfers the caller to an appropriate agent trained to help with specific transactions such as buying shares or purchasing traveler's checks. When the speech-enabled system transfers a call, CTI technology allows screen pops to the agent's computer screen with the customer's authentication status, details from the current call, and other information about the caller from backend systems. Instant access to this information enables the agent to provide faster and more personalized service to bank customers.

The system supports a wide range of self-service transactions including:

- Change of PIN
- Account balance
- Money transfers
- Savings account transfers
- Cash movements
- Stock quotes

the deployment

HVB Direkt took a phased approach to its speech-enabled deployment. System and application design and development, including dialog creation and usability testing, started in 2005. A pilot deployment included a phone banking application followed in 2006. CreaLog used pilot feedback and performance results to tune and optimize the speech applications prior to the final full-scale roll-out. Full deployment of the new customer interaction solution was completed in July 2007, providing support to 1,200 bank employees in six locations across Germany and Austria.

the results

HVB's automated caller interaction solution is now handling 20,000 calls per day, with more than 85% of the bank's customers choosing to use the speech applications rather than opting out to a live agent. Because over 40% of the calls received are handled completely through the automated self-service applications without any need for agent involvement, HVB has increased the number of calls they can handle without increasing call center headcount and has realized a significant reduction in call center costs. The new solution has boosted customer satisfaction by eliminating frustrating wait times, providing fast, easy access to personal account information 24 x 7, and enabling more efficient and personalized service.

"We are pleased that the majority of our customers are using the new speech-enabled customer interaction solution for over-the-phone service transactions," commented Mr. Karsten Linz, Head of Communications Technologies at HVB Direkt. "By automating a significant percentage of routine transactions, we are offloading a significant number of calls that previously went to our agents, allowing them to focus on providing specialized service to high value customers."



As further proof of success, HVB's automated telephone banking solution received the "Best Enterprise Services" award at Voice Days 2008, Germany's premier speech event. According to the panel of judges, the HVB solution was selected based on its advanced speech recognition and natural dialog capabilities; its sophisticated self-service features; and its proven ability to shorten processing times for customers by recognizing up to three input parameters within a user's utterance.

looking ahead

HVB is just one of many progressive banking institutions around the globe that are choosing to embrace automated customer interaction solutions for reducing costs and improving customer care. Given that the success of any speech-driven self-service system depends on the accuracy and reliability of its underlying speech recognition technology, Nuance Recognizer has become the solution of choice for companies looking to achieve differentiation and win customer loyalty by delivering an exceptional customer experience.

CreaLog understands the critical role that speech recognition plays in its ability to deliver high-performance speech systems for customer-focused, service-oriented companies throughout Europe. "Increasing cost pressures and offshore banking will in the future lead to a greater use of automated phone banking and brokerage services," said Mr. Michael Kloos, CreaLog's Managing Director. "The high volume of joint projects we have successfully completed with Nuance over the past few years has become the foundation for future banking deployments."

The Environment

The success of HVB's automated customer interaction solution was the result of effective collaboration between three technology companies:

Siemens

Siemens was the main contractor and project management provider for HVB's state-of-the-art speech-enabled IVR solution.

CreaLog

Provided the CreaLog Voice XML platform; speech dialog application development, tuning, implementation, training and maintenance; and systems integration including the CTI solution for screen-pop to the agent's desktop.

Nuance

Provided Nuance Recognizer licenses for the speech dialog system's underlying speech recognition technology.

about Nuance Communications

Nuance is in the business of helping companies better support, communicate with and understand their customers while maintaining operational efficiency goals. Nuance currently supports over 8 billion care interactions around the world. No other company has as much experience as Nuance in understanding how customers interface with a care operation. Our vision is to make every customer interaction a winning experience. For more information about our customer interaction solutions, business consulting and professional services, please visit www.nuance.com/care.

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