20th Anniversary of SoftDeCC Software GmbH
Modern LMS and 20 years of Development Experience

The German-speaking eLearning industry has experienced highs and lows over the past three decades. Periods of enthusiasm and expansion were often followed by disillusionment. Only a few providers have successfully asserted themselves in the market over such a long period.

According to the first provider study by the eLearning Journal, only 5.1% of the approximately 100 surveyed providers from the DACH region have been active as eLearning service providers for 20 years or more. This result highlights that SoftDeCC GmbH, with its 20th anniversary in 2018, is among the established providers in the eLearning landscape in Germany.
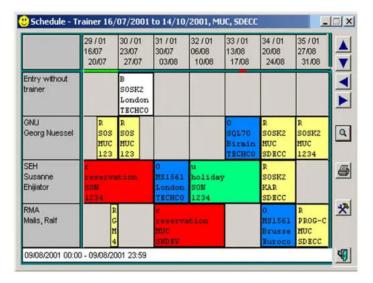
20 Jahre SoftDeCC

The founding of SoftDeCC Software GmbH in 1998 marked the beginning of a rapid development. Since then, at the core of SoftDeCC Software GmbH has been the seminar management software TCmanager®, which is continually developed by the founders Ralf Malis, Georg Nüssel, Jost Richstein, Gerd Wilts, and their teams. The focus has always been on the practical relevance of the software, leading to close collaboration with customers. To ensure this, SoftDeCC GmbH now collaborates with agile software teams, focusing on implementation, customer-specific enhancements, or core system developments. Two years after its establishment in 2000, the sister company SoftDeCC Service GmbH was founded to pro-
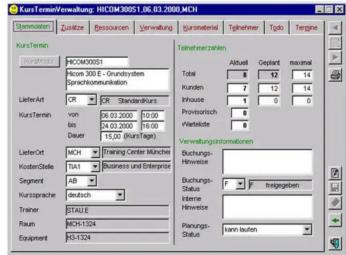
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Historic TCmanager® Screenshots

vide services such as hotline, support, and training for TCmanager®. A notable aspect from the beginning was the concept of on-site support, which is crucial in project business as well as during change phases.

Until today, SoftDeCC Software GmbH, along with its sister company SoftDeCC Service GmbH, has grown to over 30 employees. Both companies now have their headquarters side by side on Kapuzinerstraße in Munich.

From seminar software to a modern LMS

Over the past 20 years, TCmanager® has been continuously developed, adapting to the changing landscape of the eLearning industry, which is markedly different from the turn of the millennium. While traditional face-to-face seminars were prevalent back then, today, WBTs (Web-Based Trainings) dominate, allowing learners to access training easily through a web browser. In the early days of TCmanager®, there were CBTs (Computer-Based Trainings) delivered on CD-ROMs. To keep pace with technological advancements, TCmanager® underwent constant expansion and ad-

aptation to meet new requirements. In 1999, just one year after the company was founded, the TCmanager® introduced its first web components—course catalogs in the form of static HTML pages. Later, Java Servlets were employed, replaced by Web services in 2005. These Web services now support booking or approval processes, integrated into portal solutions, thereby minimizing administrative efforts through automation.

Comprehensive set of features

Not only on a technical level but also in terms of functionality, TCmanager® has continuously evolved over the last 20 years. The volume of supported features and resulting applications has grown in tandem with the changing needs of the business. While TCmanager® started as a seminar management software, it increasingly found application in supporting strategic personnel development in practice. Over the years, new features have been added, and existing ones, such as qualification profiles, training paths, the eLearning platform, and resource planning, have been expanded and modernized.

The most recent significant development for

TCmanager® occurred with the introduction of the new Web client in 2016. This client replaced the previous client/server solution and added numerous new web-based features. Step by step, TCmanager® Seminar Management has transformed into a web-based LMS with comprehensive qualification management and responsive learning portals for employees (ESS). For trainers, executives (MSS), and administrators, dedicated portal access points offer individualized information and functionality spectrums.

Frequently awarded,

The continuous advancements and quality of TCmanager® have not only been acknowledged by customers over the years but have also earned SoftDeCC Software GmbH numerous awards. As one of the early winners, SoftDeCC, along with project partner HypoVereinsbank, was honored in 2010 in the "Change Management" category for the complete administration of the learning needs of 16,500 employees through an LMS.

SoftDeCC Software GmbH has convinced the eLearning Journal jury with 5 projects and has been awarded not only in *"Change Management" but also in categories such as "Knowledge Management" and "Mobile Learning," along with the special prize for "Strategic Qualification.".*

In addition to the eLearning AWARD, TCmanager® was also honored with the 'Innovationspreis IT' (Innovation Prize IT) in 2014 in the eLearning category. The focus was particularly on the suitability of TCmanager LMS for medium-sized businesses and the innovative value of the technologies used, prevalent in the DACH region. In 2016, TCmanager® won the Innovationspreis IT in the "Human Resources" category, earning the title "Best of 2016."

Conclusio

With its 20-year history of development, TCmanager® and SoftDeCC Software GmbH stand as pioneers in the German-speaking eLearning industry. The company's and its LMS's history illustrates the evolution of IT-supported learning in businesses over the past 20 years, showcasing the significant progress the industry has made since then. In celebration of this milestone, the eLearning Journal jury honors SoftDeCC Software GmbH with the Jubiläums-AWARD 2018 (Anniversary Award).s