



La Roche & Co Banquiers

Tradition and progress going hand in hand

La Roche & Co Banquiers was founded in 1787 and is the oldest private bank in Basel. The bank's core competencies include individualised superior quality management of the assets of private and corporate clients. In order to guarantee its clients the highest levels of security and availability with regards to e-banking, La Roche has entrusted the protection of its Web-based applications to the Web Application Firewall Airlock WAF.

Throughout its long years of experience, La Roche & Co Banquiers has become well versed in the high standards both private individuals and companies expect when it comes to the comprehensive management of their financial and investment affairs. Experts at the oldest private bank in Basel support their clients with their asset management and advise them in legal and tax issues, in their succession and inheritance planning; with their strategic financial planning as well as in the adaptation of company structures, such as trusts and charities, for example.

Behind the historical facade of the company's head office situated close to the Basel Cathedral the latest computer technology is at work. The cross-generation experience of the family-owned company ensures an even balance between tradition and technical progress.

The introduction of an e-banking system

The IT-department at the La Roche head office in Basel totals ten staff who are responsible for the bank's entire IT infrastructure, including all applications and the smooth running of operations. The standard software program Avaloq is used as the core banking platform.

La Roche made the strategic business decision to introduce an e-banking system and focused on two alternative options. On the one hand a solution that strongly integrated with Avaloq; or a variation that was completely separated from the core banking platform. After the careful consideration of advantages and disadvantages of products and technologies available on the market, La Roche decided in favour of the integrated system. The requirements of the e-banking system included reporting functions as well as the possibility of processing orders and stock market transactions.

An e-banking system with clear demands

Prior to initiating the design development process for the e-banking solution all bank departments were invited to submit their suggestions and requirements. In this way it was ensured that no important requirements were left unheeded. The result was the generation of a clearly defined system specification. Only once this was completed, did the bank begin with its actual evaluation.

The bank evaluated a total of three different e-banking systems that fulfilled its criteria. "One of the main conditions was that we wanted a solution that had already proven itself in practice. Our top priority is security for the confidential and correct processing of all electronic customer transactions, for example all payment transactions, so we did not want to experiment at all here," comments project manager Günter Tschan.

Web Application Firewall the core component

The contract to implement the project was finally awarded to Comit AG. There were two decisive factors in this decision. Firstly, the solution presented matched the La Roche requirements and secondly, Comit AG boasts an impressive wealth of experience and expertise in the financial sector.

La Roche assumed the project management during the entire implementation phase and its IT department took care of the entire infrastructure as well as the underlying security issues. Günter Tschan recalls: "The cooperation with Comit AG was extremely professional which meant that the entire project could be implemented as planned." A test system was installed initially, followed by the integration of the entire e-banking system into the existing systems at La Roche.

The Web Application Firewall Airlock WAF is a central security element of the new e-banking solution completely protects its Web-based applications from attacks and maintains their availability. The WAF implementation was completed smoothly and efficiently.

Best protection possible against of attacks all kinds

After a thorough test phase the e-banking platform has recently moved into productive operation in 2008. Since then, the Web applications protected by Airlock WAF are under continual observation at La Roche. All access requests to the platform are systematically monitored and filtered at all levels. Access is only granted to users who have successfully and clearly been authenticated via authorised connections. Each

request must run through a multi-level filter that automatically identifies and blocks unauthorised access or manipulation attempts within a fraction of a second.

Günter Tschan expressed his satisfaction with regards to the Web application firewall: “As a financial institution, it is of existential significance for us that our e-banking system is protected to the highest level possible against attacks of all kinds. The business damage in combination with the associated loss of image that would result from a successful attack would have devastating consequences for any bank. It is good to know that we have a product such as Airlock WAF in place that does justice to the highest of security standards!”



“Airlock provides the maximum level of security and protects our e-banking solution as best possible. Airlock is already utilised successfully in many financial institutions – this gives us the peace of mind that we are relying on a solution that has already been prove effective in practice.”

Günter Tschan, Project Manager E-Services, La Roche & Co Banquiers

About Ergon Informatik AG and Airlock Suite

Founded in 1984, Ergon Informatik AG is a leading developer of bespoke software solutions and products. The cornerstone of our success: 235 highly qualified IT specialists who are committed to creating value for the client, anticipating technological trends and designing solutions that generate competitive advantage. Ergon focuses on implementing major B2B projects.

Airlock Suite deals with the issues of filtering and authentication in one complete and coordinated solution – setting standards for usability and services. Airlock, our security product, was launched on the market in 2002 and is now used by 300 customers around the globe.

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