

Allianz Suisse headquarters, Zurich

Tridium's NIAGARA Framework™ brings unity to Allianz Suisse



As part of a major upgrade to its Zurich headquarters, leading international financial and insurance company, Allianz Suisse is using Tridium's ground-breaking NIAGARA Framework™, united with Cisco's networking products, for cutting-edge, IP-integrated, building systems control.

Tridium integrator ETAVIS has developed and implemented a web-enabled solution, delivering unrivalled flexibility and cost-saving advantages which provides the client with easy control access across multiple sites.

The Allianz Suisse Hohlstrasse building, one of the company's administrative buildings, is home to over 450 employees. Recent works on the site have involved a new extension to the building, and the renovation of the existing facilities to create a modern, fully functional 13,000m² headquarters building. Tridium's system integrator ETAVIS was appointed to design and install the building control systems for the project, installing a new controls network for the extension whilst ensuring seamless integration with the existing building's automation systems.

“ Instant, transparent and responsive access and control over any sub-system via an online portal. ”

Roland Sutter from ETAVIS takes up the story. “We selected Tridium's NIAGARA Framework™ because it has allowed us to integrate the different control systems within the Hohlstrasse building quickly and very cost-effectively. This web-based solution also allows the client to access the control system in the building remotely. We have also been able to interface the NIAGARA Framework™ with the Allianz Suisse IP network to enable secure access over the company's LAN, and bring multi-site benefits to the client.”

Continued overleaf

The Tridium Solution

The project

- Major office building home to over 450 employees
- Recent extension has created a modern, fully functional 13,000m² headquarters

The requirement

- Design and install an IP integrated and easy to access building management solution
- Ensure seamless integration with the existing building's automation systems

Tridium provides

- NIAGARA Framework™ embedded within 18 Tridium JACE units, offering a fully IP integrated web-based supervisory system for the building and delivered by systems integrator, ETAVIS

The results

- NIAGARA Framework™ has allowed ETAVIS to develop its own modules, creating specific, IP integrated control applications and solutions for the building, whilst integrating all existing automation systems
- Control system supports multiple access and parallel binding locations, and can be adapted or extended to accommodate future controllers quickly and easily
- NIAGARA Framework™ has proved flexible enough to cope with adjustments and changes to the project as it developed
- The ETAVIS solution has also integrated the building controls systems on two other Allianz Suisse sites at Bleicherweg and Badenerstrasse onto the same NIAGARA Framework™

Conclusion

- ETAVIS has developed and implemented an IP integrated solution, delivering unrivalled flexibility and cost-saving advantages which provides the client with easy control access across multiple sites.

“ We've developed our own modules, creating specific control applications and solutions whilst integrating existing control systems. ”

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FRAMEWORK™

“ NIAGARA Framework™ provides a reliable, easy to access and integrated site-wide building management solution. ”

Case Study

The NIAGARA Framework™ is capable of integrating diverse systems and devices - regardless of manufacturer, or communication protocol - into a unified platform that can be easily managed and controlled in real time over the web using a standard browser. Over 700 Lon nodes and more than 3000 physical data points, governing the heating, air conditioning, alarms systems, energy counters, blinds, lighting and even the audio-visual presentation equipment have been successfully integrated, with resulting data served up via the NIAGARA infrastructure over a web-browser. These devices utilise different protocols, including Lon and Modbus, yet with the NIAGARA Framework™, no special gateways, BMS supervisory software or expensive engineering costs are required to achieve a single, effective controls network. By supporting multiple open field bus protocols in this way, the Tridium approach has allowed the Allianz Suisse project team complete freedom of equipment specification through best in breed selection, eliminating the issue of controls protocol compatibility.



The building's systems can be accessed and controlled from any web-enabled PC or via Netgear switching to the company's CISCO powered LAN. The ETAVIS solution has also integrated the building controls systems on two other recently refurbished Allianz Suisse sites at Bleicherweg and Badenerstrasse onto the same NIAGARA Framework™. Prior to this project, the three networks were completely separate, with remote access only possible via an ISDN connection. Graphical information from any of the three sites is now served up as HTML pages, allowing supervisory actions to take place from a remote location, over the LAN or via a web-browser. This open-access solution makes information and application sharing as easy as possible and guarantees the client high standards of network reliability.

The NIAGARA Framework™ is embedded within 18 Tridium JACE control units installed at different points throughout the Hohlstrasse building. Because the control system can be engineered via a web-browser, it is able to support multiple access and parallel binding locations, helping to speed up installation and commissioning time. The NIAGARA Framework™ also proved flexible enough to cope with the inevitable adjustments and changes to the project as it developed, for example, the integration of a Crestron web server controlling the AV equipment in the meeting rooms. Added-value energy monitoring functions are also planned to be brought into the network across all three sites in the near future to minimise fuel consumption within each building and Tridium's Vykon Energy Suite, a new generation of energy analysis and system integration software has been in operation at the first site since December 2005.

About Tridium

Tridium is a US based privately held company with their European headquarters in West Sussex and an Asia Pacific centre in Singapore. The company has established key strategic alliances with leading corporations in the energy services, building automation and data management industries. Tridium markets its Framework solutions to a wide range of controls manufacturers, HVAC equipment manufacturers, and a network of Tridium Systems Integrators. Additional information about Tridium is available at www.tridium.com

About ETAVIS

Formerly a part of ABB, ETAVIS offers consulting, engineering, project management, of building systems and telecom infrastructure projects. ETAVIS has been a Tridium integrator for 5 years and has extensive experience of working with the Niagara Framework™.

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