

# » Administration Using the Building-Block Principle at MAGNA STEYR

scVENUS, the system management software from s+c, demonstrates its adaptability

CASE STORY

### Request

Efficiently manage a sophisticated CAD computing environment consisting of several hundred workstations and a variety of individual configurations.

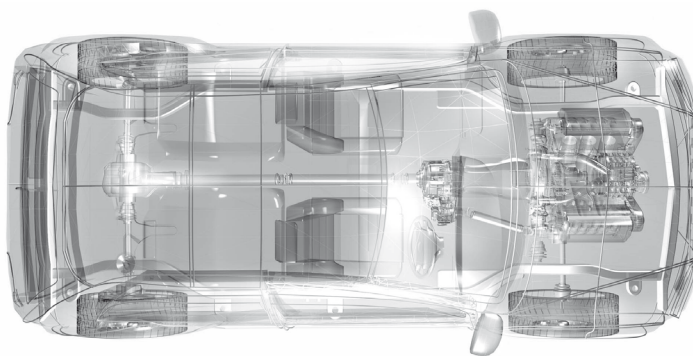
### Solution

scVENUS structures the heterogeneous network, automates administrative processes and supplements an already existing administration tool.

### Benefit

scVENUS enables quick software distribution, easy remote administration of branch offices and comprehensive documentation of administrative knowledge.

Growth has its hidden dangers. At the MAGNA STEYR factory in Graz, where vehicle production has increased 30-fold over the last 12 years, an extremely complex



computer network evolved that became a challenge to any system administrator. Four years ago, the Engineering Information System (EIS) support department decided to replace its self-made administration tools by the s+c software scVENUS. Since then, scVENUS has not only quickly taken control over the heterogeneous computer environment but has also incorporated itself seamlessly into the existing administration structure.

### The challenge

A total of about 300 CAD systems are currently managed by the EIS department, these being distributed among various groups having their own software requirements and different hardware. Furthermore, some of the computers are not located at the main Graz location but are being maintained remotely. At one point, the situation became almost impossible to handle manually.

*"It became increasingly difficult for us to complete our contracts on time and with the required flexibility",* recalls Joachim Eibel, EIS system administrator. The need for more and

more individual solutions having special configurations turned into an ever growing headache for him and his colleagues:

*"Because we had only inadequate methods for our*

*documentation, often only certain people knew how a particular solution had been configured. If that person wasn't available when a problem occurred, things could get tight."* EIS developed proprietary support programs to relieve the situation but these quickly reached their limits. Soon it became clear: They had to find a comprehensive solution.

### The solution

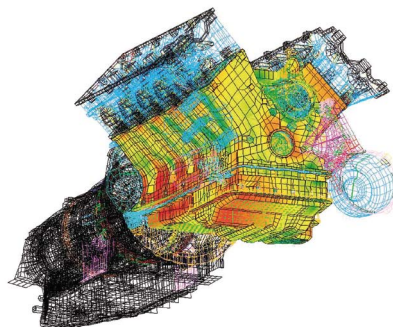
The EIS administrators found the solution at s+c: The scVENUS administration package brings structure to heterogeneous computer environments and can efficiently automate workflows even in the complex MAGNA STEYR network. By using scVENUS, administrators can subdivide their computers into logical structures, such as work groups or locations, and issue commands to these subgroups. The program then determines how these commands are to be interpreted for each individual computer and automatically



looks up the solution for that particular architecture and system. For the people at Graz, not only was it important what scVENUS can do, but also what it doesn't need to do: The EIS system administrators are responsible only for the installation and configuration of the workstations. Users and networks are managed centrally by MAGNA STEYR's information technology group. Because this group already had its own administration tools, the EIS department didn't need a complete solution. In this situation the flexible structure of scVENUS was just what was needed. By using the building-block principle, the various administration modules can be put together in almost any combination. In this way, user administration and single-system image was not an issue while configuration and software administration are used all the more. At that time, the module they needed for inventory control was still missing but the people at Graz were already convinced: *"In our discussions with s+c we found a high level of expertise and flexibility to deal competently with customer requirements"*, explains Johann Leicht, the systems operations manager. *"Today we know: Our trust was not misplaced."*

### The benefits for MAGNA STEYR

The results were striking. Now the complete software installation of every CAD client is recorded in scVENUS and can be reproduced at the press of a button. So if there's a defect, a replacement can be made available in no time. scVENUS proved particularly valuable to the branch offices. There, an external service provider only has to install the new computer with a predefined basic system. Everything else is handled by scVENUS, without an administrator having to leave the central location. And because scVENUS automatically documents every step, it also serves the administrators as a collective memory: Any of the administrators can reproduce any special installation and any individual solution. So now the company can continue to grow smoothly - the administrators are by all means well equipped to face the future.



### About MAGNA STEYR

MAGNA STEYR is a 100% subsidiary of the Canadian Magna International Inc. which is among the largest suppliers to the automobile industry. Magna International has more than 81,000 employees in 223 production locations and 56 production development and construction centers in 22 countries. MAGNA STEYR is the world's leading partner to the automobile industry in developing and producing complete vehicles. In 2004, around 9000 employees at the MAGNA STEYR factory in Graz produced more than 227,000 vehicles for BMW, Daimler and GM/Saab.

### About science + computing

science + computing ag (s+c) is an independent IT services and software house for technical and scientific construction and simulation environments (CAD/CAE/CAT). s+c specializes in optimizing the layout of open and distributed computer systems and has many years of experience in the operation and administration of complex Unix, Linux, and Windows environments, and in software development for these systems. Currently s+c has 250 employees at its four locations: Tuebingen, Munich, Duesseldorf and Berlin. Audi, BMW, Bosch, Daimler, Porsche and Infineon Technologies are among s+c's customers. The company cooperates with business partners in France, Italy, Japan and the USA.