

«We were looking for a new, state-of-the-art and flexible system.»
«Kaba Benzing and Softworld met with us and assessed all our needs.»

«The whole project went off without a hitch.»

Ralf Lücke
Head of Technical Service

www.koelner-dom.de
www.softworld-seminare.de



Kölner Dom



Cologne Cathedral keeps up with time

Today, not only large enterprises need a time and attendance system. The Cologne Cathedral has now implemented a Kaba Benzing system to record the working hours of their employees.

The Cologne Cathedral (built from 1248 to 1880) is a masterpiece of Gothic architecture and is on UNESCO's list of World Heritage Sites.

Ever after archbishop Rainald von Dassel brought the relics of the three Magi to Cologne in 1164, the cathedral was not only the official church of the Cologne archbishop, but also became one of the most important pilgrimage churches throughout Europe. The place in which the cathedral is situated today has been since late roman times the place where the first christians assembled in Cologne. Several churches -each one in turn larger than its predecessors- have been built on this site near the city walls.

Important works of art which had already been in the old cathedral as e.g. the Gero cross and the shrine of the Magi were placed in the new building. Until approximately 1530 works on the cathedral continued and the building was adorned with furnishings. Then lack of money and a general lack of interest stopped the building. In 1794 the troupes of the French revolution marched into Cologne. The archbishop fled. From then on the cathedral served profane purposes during many years, e. g. as a warehouse. The love and the enthusiasm of the Cologne people for this extraordinary building grew especially during those years in which the cathedral was profaned. A very intensive and effective phase of building began.

Success Story

The builders strictly followed the medieval plans in regard to form, but they used modern building techniques. Even though Cologne Cathedral was hit by 14 large aerial bombs it survived also the Second World War. Many years of reconstruction followed. Modern construction styles were used -above all- in the northern transept. Even today some of the wounds from the war still exist. They must be repaired together with the damages caused by weather and pollution.

Today the Cologne Cathedral has some 170 employees (including the priests). Approximately 70 craftsmen such as stonemasons, sculptors, roofers, carpenters, scaffolders, etc. as well as the staff in the HR and accounting department (Domrendantur) all have years of experience with a time and attendance system. Now, another 55 cathedral employees will be acquainted with time and attendance. Employees of the Rendantur, the sacristans, the supervisory staff (so-called Dom-schweizer) in the treasure chamber, night-watchmen, and the cleaning personnel all work according to different working time models. This goes from

working fix hours that vary depending on the season, to flextime and multiple-shift operation.

The Domrendantur had an antiquated time and attendance system in use. «We were looking for a new, state-of-the-art and flexible system. This should also incorporate the staff in the cathedral», explains Klaus Bispinck, Manager of the Rendantur. After numerous inquiries and comparing offers, the Cathedral Managers chose Kaba Benzing's hardware and Softworld's S-Zeit 2000 software solution, a nearby software house based in Niederkassel, Germany. «Each group works at different times which result in different time premiums. Softworld's software could easily illustrate that.» S-Zeit 2000 considers all factors of flexibilization and is designed in such a way that future developments and requirements can be easily accomplished. Besides time and attendance, the program also offers access control and production data collection options. Having Softworld «round the corner» is just one more positive aspect.

Since September 2004, the cathedral staff records their working hours contactfree at three Kaba Benzing Bedanet 93 20 LEGIC terminals. They have been installed in the sacristy uilding, inside the cathedral near the tower, and in the administration building. Employees use their LEGIC card or their key tag to clock in and out. They only had a few minor problems to solve with the system. The time and attendance system more than fulfilled everyone's expectations. «Kaba Benzing and Softworld really exceeded all our expectations», says Dirk Lamprecht.