

Nordea

Telex Testkey and Fax on OS/390 with INTERCOPE Technology



The Company

Nordea today is the largest financial services group in the Nordic region with approximately EUR 233 billion in total assets. The group operates 1.260 bank branch offices serving 9 million personal and more than 600.000 corporate customers. It provides leading Internet banking and e-commerce services. The group has been set up in 2000 by a merger of Unibank in Denmark, Norwegian Christiania Bank, Nordbanken from Sweden and Finish Merita Bank.

The Vision

The vision of Nordea management is clearly to unify the operation, business processes and communication technology within the new organization. This does not only refer to single technical solutions or individual business processes. To set up a unified corporate identity and to impose the synergic effects of one integrated institution are important management objectives. Several projects have been set up for this purpose. The first one to be completed still this year is the integration of financial messaging via SWIFT, Telex and Fax.

The Challenge

The four banks are using different backend business applications and each bank used to have different organization, technology and systems for the processing of financial statements via SWIFT and Telex:

- Unibank Merva CICS and TelexPlus/2
- Christiania Bank SWIFT Alliance
- Nordbanken Merva IMS and TelexPlus/88
- Merita Bank ST400

All telex message processing is now consolidated in one central Merva system, which physically is installed on an IBM mainframe in Copenhagen. The first challenge was to integrate the different financial business applications in Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland into this new environment. A communication layer was required to build a bridge between the different formats and to shield the complexity of message and data exchange from the core business applications. Nordea decided to use ProSwitch for this purpose - a financial middleware solution from Ementor.

A second challenge was to provide telex, fax and testkey services as an integral part of the unified solution. Consequently Nordea defined the following major requirements:

- Availability under OS/390
- Tightest integration with Merva
- Usage of exiting middleware technology
- Most comprehensive testkey functionality

Additionally specific faxing requirements had to be considered from other departments. Financial reports, credit and debit advices and other information for corporate customers is generated by OS/390 batch processes. Traditionally these documents have been printed using VPS from Levi, Ray & Shoup as output management system.



As FaxPlus/Open from INTERCOPE is directly integrated with VPS under OS/390 it required only minor adoptions in the backend applications to directly send the financial information to fax recipients.

Ongoing success story with Intercope

”There was only one solution available in the market which could cope with all requirements- Telex-, Testkey- and FaxPlus/Open from INTERCOPE“, states Joergen Gregers Hansson, head of International Payment Systems with Nordea Denmark. Three of the four banks were already using INTERCOPE technology. TelexPlus/2 and TelePlus/88 are INTERCOPE products and INTERCOPE also developed the telex and testkey part of Alliance for SWIFT. ”The unification project so far has been the latest prove of a long-term success story cooperating with INTERCOPE. In the OS/390 environment they showed again their outstanding competence and reacted immediately and very professional to all requirements during the whole project“, says Joergen Gregers Hansson.

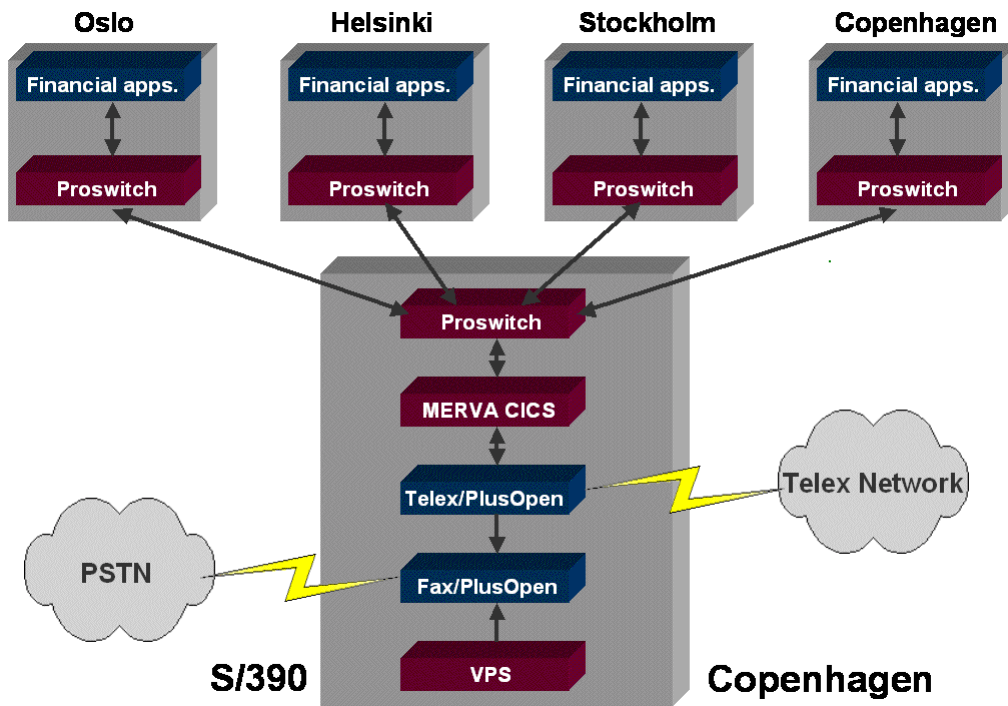
Secure Operation under OS/390

Nordea now has one unified solution in place for processing of financial messages including SWIFT, Telex and Fax. All components are integrated in a secure OS/390 environment and highest availability is guaranteed. The new banking infrastructure allows to allocate distributed resources in the four countries and thus optimise the workflow of the business processes. While the technical administration of the system is located in Denmark, the telex operation is e.g. performed remotely from Sweden.

Unification of Nordea Financial Services

Joergen Gregers Hansson: ”The successful integration of centralized SWIFT, Telex and Fax services into the business processes in the four countries is an important step for the unification of Nordea financial services. It clearly demonstrates the synergy we could obtain by building a generic framework for the whole corporation.”

System configuration at Nordea



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