



Case Study

VNClagoon at

Evangelical Church of Berlin-Brandenburg-
Silesian Upper Lusatia

Version: 1.0
August 2019



1. Initial Situation

The „landeskirchliche Intranet (LKI)“ (meaning: church intranet for the federal state) is intended to enable secure communication on various channels (via email, via chat / video, via file exchange) and to be accessible via a portal.

The church intranet should strengthen communication and cooperation within the church. The basic goal is to provide all employees and volunteers of the church with access to an innovative, modern and standardized communication and collaboration infrastructure.

In terms of content, the LKI stands on three pillars:

- Common communication infrastructure (e-mail, calendar, chat, video conferencing, etc.)
- Collaboration Platform (protected file storage, secure file sharing, collaboration on files, screensharing)
- Intranet to publish news of the church

With the new version of the European Data Protection Law and the corresponding harmonization of canon law, the sensitivity in dealing with the data of employees and church members has increased. In particular, the exchange of confidential data via chat services is a legally not to be underestimated risk. Therefore, within this project there was a great deal of attention to data security and on offering a safest alternative to WhatsApp for the communication partners.

The planned number of users for the LKI are the 10,000 full-time employees and the chairpersons of the parish councils within the EKBO. In the long term, an expansion to additional volunteers and church members is possible.

According to EKBO, the VNClagoon product suite from VNC covers the required scope of functions and was therefore selected for the implementation of the project.



2. Solution

The goal of the project was to implement all VNClagoon functionalities required for email communication, calendaring, address management, file storage and the provision of data (appointments, documents and the like) as well as for the communication via chat, video and audio conferences.

All users were to be centrally managed within the intranet, reducing administrative processes as much as possible, for example by allowing users to self-register.

With the use of exclusively open source components, the solution stack requires only comparatively low operating costs. In addition, the non-proprietary software enables the implementation of technically transparent and thereby extremely secure communication solutions.

VNClagoon is an integrated product stack consisting of highly flexible components and open interfaces, which can be operated in any environment (in this case: on the EKBO servers). VNClagoon serves all aspects of a modern and private cloud environment - from backend to server infrastructure and customizable applications, middleware components and a responsive user interface on every common device. VNClagoon combines email & groupware, file storage & collaboration, portals, synchronous communication, project management and many other features.

The individual VNClagoon products selected for EKBO are:

- Start page / Registration page:
The EKBO start and registration page has various functions. On the one hand, it consists of the registration page itself, in which the user (for example, a full-time employee of the regional church) can register for the EKBO online applications by entering various personal details. Additionally, a login page and a "forgotten password?" page are available.
After logging in, the start page acts as an entry point for all other EKBO applications. Here, the VNC applications are integrated into the user interface through various "tiles". All applications can be opened via Single Sign On. It is also possible to create a ticket in the ITIL based ticket system via the button "Service & Support", which can then be further processed by the technical support of the EKBO.
Furthermore, the start page offers the opportunity to set a profile picture, to choose an individual background picture for the start page or to change the user information (e.g. the address).
In the Administration menu, the administrators find various management options including user, group, and feature group management.
- VNCmail:
VNCmail is based on Zimbra, which is a very powerful commercial open source e-mail and collaboration suite.
Zimbra Collaboration Suite provides the following basic functionality:
 - mailbox
 - calendar
 - address book



- tasks
- notes

- VNCsafe:
VNCsafe based on ownCloud allows you to store, sync, and share files, folders and other information.

- VNCtalk:
VNCtalk is an application for secure real-time communication: chat, video and audio calls, screen sharing.

The main features of VNCtalk are

- presence and profile information
- text chat: 1: 1 or 1: n (chat rooms)
- audio and video conferencing: 1: 1 or 1: n
- screen sharing
- voice messaging
- file sharing (documents, images etc.)
- search
- activate / deactivate microphone / camera during a call
- notifications
- confirmation of sent and read messages
- various settings (language, notifications, font size, etc.)

In addition to the VNCtalk browser application, the VNCtalk app (for Android and iPhone) has been adapted to the design of EKBO and is offered to users as "EKBO dialog".

The browser application and the app are integrated, so that for example, a conversation can be started in the app and continued in the browser.

Additional features of the app are e.g.:

- Instant Camera Switch: Switches the mobile camera between the front and rear camera.
- Snapshots: Snapshots with the integrated camera and send in the chat.

- VNCoffice:
VNCoffice is based on Collabora's LibreOffice and includes word processing, spreadsheets and presentations. The Collabora Cloudsuite is a leading open source office suite on the market and offers offline / desktop functionality and the ability to access, edit and collaborate on LibreOffice documents in a browser.



3. Project implementation

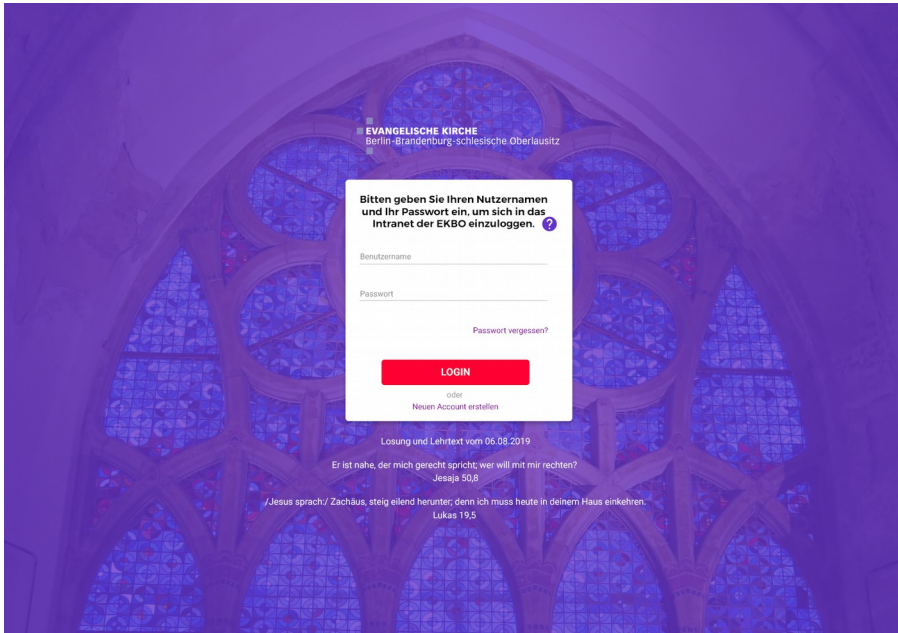
The implementation of VNClagoon for EKBO took place in 2018 within a time frame of approximately nine months and after completion of several detailed planning workshops with the customer. The new communication platform was implemented at EKBO "on-premise" in a highly secure data center in Berlin, whereby the project implementation itself was partly remote.

As part of the pilot phase, around 1,300 users were on-boarded to the platform by August 2019, so that in the year 2019 a total of approximately 2,000 users are expected to use the LKI.

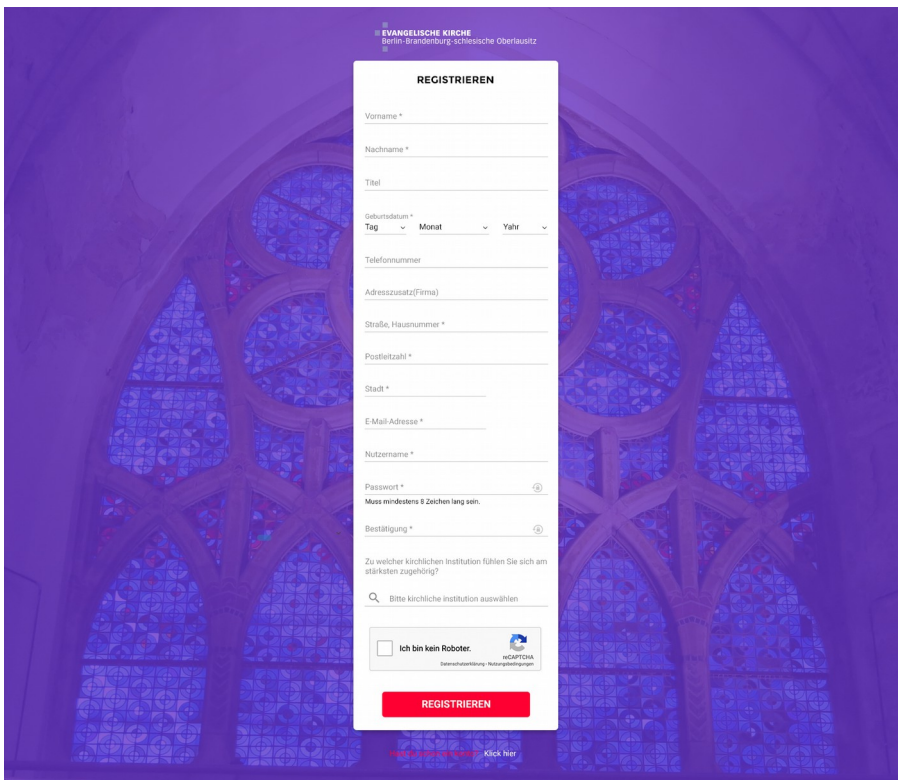
The state church intranet can be reached at this address: www.gemeinsam.ekbo.de. General information about the project can be found at: <https://intranetprojekt.ekbo.de/startseite.html>

4. Screenshots

The login page of the LKI:



The registration page:





The chat view in EKBO Dialog:

The screenshot shows the EKBO Dialog chat interface. At the top, there's a header with the logo of the Evangelische Kirche Berlin-Brandenburg-schlesische Oberlausitz, the text 'EKBO dialog', a search bar, and the user 'Johannes Meyer' with a settings icon and a notification badge for 86. Below the header is a list of chat rooms on the left, including 'Chat starten', 'Marketing Board', 'Jule Band', 'Yasmin Dieterich', 'Jochen Rickenbacker', and 'Laurin Ackner'. The main chat area is titled 'Marketing Board' and shows a conversation from 06.08.2019. The messages are:

- Jule Band betritt den Raum
- Sofia Klugman betritt den Raum
- Jule Band: Hallo!
- Sofia Klugman: Hallo Johannes, hast Du alles für Sonntag vorbereitet?
- Jule Band: Hallo zusammen, wie geht es Euch? (13:22)
- Sofia Klugman: Hallo Johannes, mir geht es gut, Bei Dir auch alles in Ordnung?bestätigen müssen. (13:21)
- Jule Band: Hallo, wie wollen wir in dem Projekt nun weitermachen? Habt Ihr meine Email bekommen? Wir müssen uns beeilen, da wir den Termin der Veranstaltung heute bestätigen müssen. (13:21)
- Jule Band: Ja, ich habe die Email gelesen und würde sagen: wir machen das! Wer reserviert den Termin? Ist schon eine Pressemitteilung verfasst worden? (13:21)
- Sofia Klugman: Das kann ich gerne machen. Wollen wir um 10:00 Uhr beginnen? Ich habe Euch schon weitere Aufgaben zugeordnet. (13:22)

At the bottom, there's a text input field 'Geben Sie eine Nachricht ein' with a microphone icon and a list of participants on the right side of the chat area.



5. Quotes

In the own words of the team members of EKBO, who were responsible for the project:

Tabea Langguth, Project Manager Landeskirchenweites Intranet:

"The federal state church intranet should strengthen communication and cooperation within the state church. The basic aim is to provide all full-time employees and volunteers of the regional church with access to an innovative, modern and unified communication and collaboration infrastructure. The VNClagoon products are particularly well suited for this, because they allow us as a state church - in addition to the many functionalities provided - the possibility of customization options to individual needs within our church."

Dr. Martin Richter, Head of Department 1 (General Law, Canon Law, Knowledge Management):

"For internal cooperation, VNCsafe and VNCOffice offer the great possibility to collaboratively edit and store files on a project-and-task-related basis. The LKI is intended to help to overcome the geographical distances in order to enable real collaboration."

Fabian Kraetschmer, Head of Unit 1.3 - IT:

"For us, a collective mail environment is essential today so that the state church can, on the one hand, represent itself professionally to the outside, and on the other hand, internal mail communication can also be used to send sensitive data. With VNCmail, the employees of the church have access to a modern web interface that is easy to use and can even be linked to external mail programs. The calendar, contact and task management products complement the e-mail inbox and therefore complete an important and indispensable work tool. In particular, the use of shared calendars reduces the coordination effort regarding appointments.

As part of this project, it was also very important for the representatives of the church that a WhatsApp alternative could be found. Short message services are commonly used, therefore EKBO Dialog was very welcome."



6. Further Information

About EKBO

In English the Evangelische Kirche Berlin-Brandenburg-schlesische Oberlausitz (EKBO) calls itself 'Evangelical Church of Berlin-Brandenburg-Silesian Upper Lusatia'. As one of 20 'Landeskirchen', the EKBO is a German regional Church and forms part of Germany's main protestant Church, the Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland (EKD).

The EKBO comprises the German capital city of Berlin, the surrounding county of Brandenburg, as well as the region of Upper Lusatia. Being a united Church makes the EKBO a diverse protestant faith community. Next to celebrating Sunday services, EKBO church ministers offer services for special occasions – they accompany many key moments in peoples' lives, including baptism, confirmation, marriage and funeral. Besides pastoral care, the EKBO also offers counseling.

Education and faith are closely linked in the protestant Church. Many parishes run kindergartens and engage in youth ministry. Children and adolescents are taught in protestant primary and secondary schools under the auspices of the EKBO. The EKBO also lays emphasis on adult education.

The Diakonie - Germany's protestant social service organization – is devoted to caring for people in need within the territory of the EKBO.

The EKBO maintains numerous ecumenical ties within and beyond its borders. It also plays an important part in fostering exchange in culture and the arts.

Further information here: <https://www.ekbo.de>

About VNC

VNC - Virtual Network Consult GmbH is an established company since 1998 and a leading developer of open source based enterprise applications, the VNClagoon Product Stack. We have an international presence, with several branches in Switzerland, Germany and our own development company in India (VNC Technologies India Prvt Ltd. in Ahmedabad / Gujarat).

We have been dealing with open source based products for more than 10 years and have implemented hundreds of projects during this time. These projects range from small and medium-sized enterprises, research institutes, educational institutions, universities to very large organizations / corporations.

Some of our customers can be seen here: <https://vnclagoon.com/clients/>

For a selection of the VNC portfolio of open source enterprise applications see: <https://vnclagoon.com/products/>



Addendum: LKI Flyer by EKBO

EVANGELISCHE KIRCHE
Berlin-Brandenburg-schlesische Oberlausitz

*gemeinsam***EKBO.**
**UNSER INTRANET.
DER TESTLAUF BEGINNT.**

Bitte geben Sie Ihren Nutzernamen
und Ihr Passwort ein, um sich in das
Intranet der EKBO einzuloggen:

Nutzername

Passwort

[Passwort vergessen?](#)

ANMELDEN

oder

[Neuen Account erstellen](#)

gemeinsam
EKBO

Unser Intranet geht in die Pilotphase.

Nach Monaten der Entwicklung, Gestaltung und Umsetzung hat nun die Pilotphase unseres Intranets begonnen. Und damit stehen bereits zahlreiche Funktionen zur freien und sicheren Verfügung:



PORTAL: Mit den aktuellen Nachrichten der Landeskirche stets auf dem Laufenden bleiben.



MAIL: Alle Funktionen rund um den Kommunikationsklassiker sicher und komfortabel nutzen.



CALENDAR: Das Organisationstool für eigene und gemeinsame Termine und Aufgaben.



TALK: Zu zweit oder in Gruppen chatten, inkl. Bildschirmfreigabe, Video- und Audiotelefonie.



SAFE: Dateien sicher speichern, verwalten und in Nutzergruppen teilen.

Werden Sie Pilotnutzer/in und testen Sie unser Intranet mit all seinen verfügbaren Funktionen.

Registrieren Sie sich direkt auf: www.gemeinsam.ekbo.de

In der Projektphase ist die Nutzung unseres Intranet-Systems für kirchliche Organisationseinheiten noch bis Ende 2019 kostenlos. Die Landessynode berät auf der Herbsttagung 2019 über die weitergehende Finanzierung.

Intranet-Schulungen werden bei Bedarf im gesamten Gebiet unserer Landeskirche angeboten (ab sieben Teilnehmer/innen je Veranstaltung).

Bei Fragen und für alle Informationen rund um unser Intranet: intranet-service@ekbo.de

Design: FJELLFRAS / Berlin, Foto: Karl Fredrickson

