



## Fedenet portal site

*A secure private information portal site  
for the intra/extranet of the Belgian federal government*

**Challenge** Fedenet is the new secure intra/extranet of the Belgian Federal Government, successor to the Bistel information system. As part of the two-year, 300 million BEF project to deploy this big intranet/extranet, a new Web site for the integrated, browser-based consultation of a variety of heterogeneous information sources of the Belgian federal government (Belga, Justel, FVD/SFI: Euro, Year 2000, ...) and the European Commission (Celex, Eclas, Eur-Lex, Idea, TED, ...) had to be developed. A vital part of this private portal site is Regedoc, a massive legacy document database with vital government information, which has been securely Internet-enabled in order to make its content accessible in this new environment. The goal of this private portal site is to make all this information accessible to more than 15.000 potential users, requiring a support staff of no more than 5 full-time persons.

---

**Solution** BASISplus was chosen as the document database for the whole portal site (more than 2.5 million Belga telexes alone), and a uniform Fedenet portal interface was developed which rigorously respects existing Web standards. Digipass-secured, user profile-based Web access to this database is provided by the Smart Gateway, an advanced application server developed in-house by OFFIS. The external information sources of the Belgian federal government and the European Commission were integrated into this uniform Fedenet portal interface using the built-in Web site integration functionalities of the Smart Gateway. In order to satisfy the strict access and security requirements for the Regedoc database, a Web-based client/server architecture was chosen, with Java applets and applications accessing the legacy document database (for document consultation and visualization, file up/download, dossier management, ...), again using the Smart Gateway. In this three-tier architecture, XML was used throughout as the document/data exchange format which connects the different front-end and back-end systems tightly together.

---

**Technical details** Features supported:

- real-time document conversion and indexing
- Digipass-secured, user profile-based Web access
- seamless integration of internal/external information sources
- integrated user management, access logging and billing administration

Tools used:

- conversion engine: OmniMark
- document database: BASISplus
- application server: Smart Gateway
- development languages: Perl, JavaScript, Java, Visual Basic

Platforms:

- server: Sinix
  - clients: Windows 95/98/NT, Macintosh, Unix
- 

**For more information** Vincent Cappelle, account manager *or* Hans C. Arents, director projects & consultancy  
OFFIS n.v., Parkoffice, Franklin Rooseveltlaan 348, B-9000 Gent, Belgium  
Tel: +32 (0)9 265 02 69 / Fax: +32 (0)9 265 02 50  
E-mail: [info@offis.be](mailto:info@offis.be) / Web: [www.offis.be](http://www.offis.be)