



Referenzbericht

eXplain:

Get back to full capacity
and effectiveness in
application development!

HELLWEG
Die Profi-Baumärkte



With PKS, we have found a reliable partner that is characterized by a high level of expertise. Thanks to the structured help with the code review, we were able to observe significant increases in efficiency in the area of i-series development. We feel well positioned for the future.

Ingo Geiselhart

Head of IT

HELLWEG Die Profi-Bau- & Gartenmärkte GmbH & Co. KG

■ The company

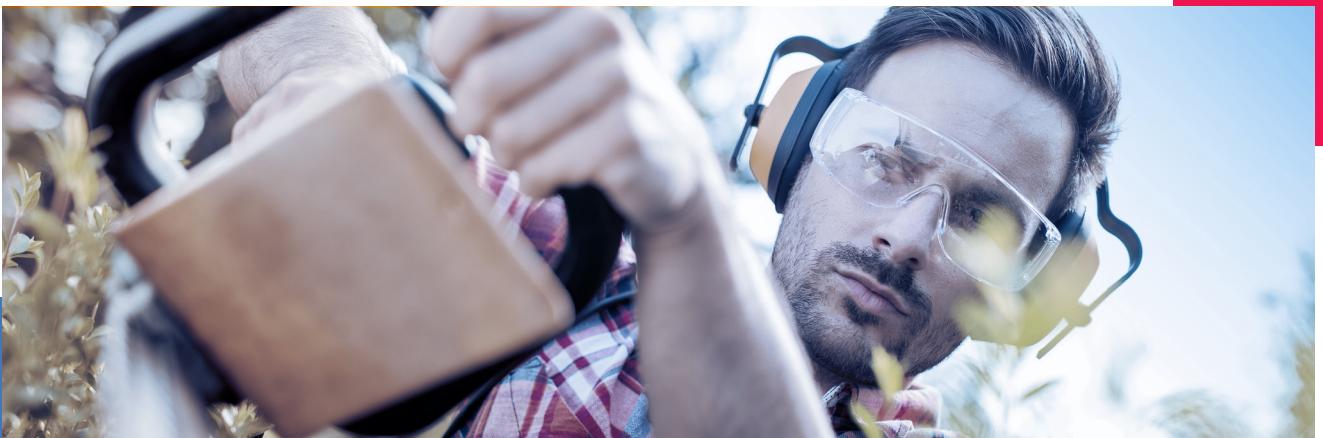
Hellweg is a family-owned company with a concept of building and gardening market branches as well as online shops. From its headquarters in Dortmund, 95 HELLWEG stores in Germany and Austria, as well as 53 building and gardening markets of the sister company BayWa Bau & Garten in southern Germany, are managed and controlled. The corporate group also includes garden centers named Augsburg with seven locations in North Rhine-Westphalia. The first HELLWEG hardware store was opened in 1971 on Brackeler Hellweg in Dortmund. The company is named after Europe's most important trade route in the Middle Ages: The „Hellweg“ runs from Aachen through today's Ruhr area to Berlin.

The HELLWEG branch network is characterized by high density and regional market leadership, with a focus on the Rhine-Ruhr area and the Berlin region. With an average sales area of approximately 8,000 square meters, HELLWEG has one of the most modern branch portfolios in the industry. Over 90 percent of the markets have attractive garden centers. HELLWEG employs around 4,000 people, 10 percent of whom are trainees.

■ Review

The company HELLWEG has been using the IBM Power i platform for many years with its business-critical core applications for logistics and merchandise management. Due to increasing company growth, the challenges of generational change and the associated „brain drain,” as well as frequently changing personnel in the area of application development, the documentation of process knowledge and application expertise has been partially neglected. As a result, the onboarding of new colleagues has become increasingly cumbersome, difficult, and unsatisfactory for all involved.

The IT management simultaneously faced the challenge of how to work efficiently with a small development team consisting of 3-5 specialists. This includes the entire process from specification, through coding, to testing, deployment, and support, without creating new gaps or accumulating technical debt.



■ Insight

For optimal support of the development team, HELLWEG decided to use the source code analysis tool eXplain from PKS based on extensive testing. PKS supported the HELLWEG team in the initial phase with the implementation and configuration of eXplain, as well as dedicated use-case training and hands-on coaching. In the initial clean-up phase, programs that were no longer relevant were identified using eXplain. Specifically, over 60% of the programs were identified as „dead code.” As a result, the onboarding of new developers became significantly faster, more targeted, and more efficient.

Additionally, HELLWEG benefits greatly from the graphical evaluations in eXplain, which easily illustrate how programs and files are interconnected and which modernization steps are particularly recommended. This project was jointly supervised by Mr. Helge Michels from HELLWEG and Jochen Sieber from PKS, who achieved convincing results in a short period of time.

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eXplain is much more than an analysis tool. Working with eXplain is worth its weight in gold! Since we started using eXplain at HELLWEG, I use it daily, and it saves a lot of time and work. It makes a big difference whether I have to look at 9,000 programs or only a third of them. The collaboration with Jochen Sieber has worked wonderfully and has been a pleasure. We have already been able to recruit a new developer for our team, who immediately benefited from using eXplain during the onboarding phase. Step by step, together with PKS, we have advanced critical issues and mastered even difficult challenges.

Helge Michels
Software-Engineer at HELLWEG

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■ Forecast

After the successful introduction of eXplain, HELLWEG is now fully operational again and has the necessary strength in the development team, allowing them to look forward to technical expansions with specific benefits for the company. Onboarding new developers will no longer require significant effort in the future, and last but not least, the workplace is very attractive for new personnel thanks to the intuitive and modern interface of eXplain.



I have found the collaboration between HELLWEG and PKS to be very positive and productive. With the help of our source code analysis tool eXplain, we were able to see success in a very short space of time and make processes easier in the long term.



Jochen Sieber
Project Lead & Senior Consultant
PKS Software GmbH

■ The advantages of eXplain on IBM i and partnering with PKS:

✓ Thanks to eXplain, HELLWEG saves time and money when building up new developer resources.

✓ It is easier and more attractive for young developers to join the team and make productive contributions quickly.

✓ By cleaning up the source code inventory, the stability and robustness of the application has been increased; it can be further developed faster and with fewer errors.

✓ By using the innovative eXplain tool, the life cycle of self-developed applications can be optimally extended and adapted to the company's orientation.

■ Tools and procedures

- PKS eXplain
- Software Clean-Up