



## La Roche & Co Banquiers

### Tradition and progress go hand in hand

Founded in 1787, La Roche & Co Banquiers is the oldest private bank in Basel. The bank's core competencies include the individual and highest quality management of private and corporate clients' assets. In order to guarantee the clients' high security and availability requirements for e-banking, La Roche trusts in the Web Application Firewall Airlock to protect its web-based applications.

Thanks to many long years of experience, La Roche & Co Banquiers are more than familiar with the particularly high standards expected by both private individuals and companies when it comes to the comprehensive management of their financial and investment affairs. Experts at the oldest private bank in Basel support their clients with their asset management and advise them in legal and tax issues, in their succession and inheritance planning, with their strategic financial planning as well as in the adaptation of company structures, such as charities, for example.

The latest computer technology is used behind the historical facade of the company's head office situated close to the Basel Cathedral. The cross-generation experience of the family-owned company ensures an even balance between tradition and technical progress.

#### **The introduction of an e-banking system was the trigger**

The IT-department at the La Roche head office in Basel totals ten staff that are responsible for the bank's entire IT infrastructure, including all applications and the smoothly running operations. The standard software program Avaloq is used as the core banking platform here.

La Roche took the strategic business decision to introduce an e-banking system and focussed upon two alternative options: Either a solution that is strongly integrated into Avaloq or a variation that is completely separated from the core banking platform. Following the careful consideration of advantages and disadvantages of products and technologies available on the market, La Roche decided in favour of the integrated system. The demands of the e-banking

system included, on the one hand, the reporting functions and on the other, the possibilities of processing orders and stock market transactions.

#### **Clear demands of the e-banking system**

Prior to initiating the design development process for the e-banking solution all bank departments were invited to submit their suggestions and requirements. In this way it could be ensured that no important requirements were left unheeded. The result was a clearly defined system specification in the run-up stage. Only then, did the bank begin with their actual evaluation.

The bank evaluated a total of three different e-banking systems that fulfilled the listed criteria. Günter Tschan, the Project Manager, comments: "One of the main conditions was that we wanted a solution that had already proven itself in practice. Our top priority is security for the confidential and correct processing of all electronic customer transactions, for example all payment transactions, so we did not want to experiment at all here."

#### **Web Application Firewall as the core component**

The contract to implement the project was then finally awarded to Comit AG. There were two decisive factors in this decision: Firstly, the solution presented matched the La Roche requirements and secondly, Comit AG's long experience and the expertise in the financial sector was more than convincing.

La Roche assumed the project management during the entire implementation phase and their IT department took

care of the entire infrastructure as well as the underlying security issues. Günter Tschan recalls: "The cooperation with Comit AG was extremely professional which meant that the entire project could be implemented as planned." A test system was installed initially, followed by the integration of the entire e-banking system into the existing systems at La Roche.

The Web Application Firewall (WAF) Airlock forms a central security element of the new e-banking solution protecting its web-based applications completely from attacks and maintaining their availability. The WAF implementation was both smooth and fast within the overall project.

#### **Best possible protection against attacks of all kinds**

Subsequent to a thorough test phase the e-banking platform recently went into productive operation. Since then, the web applications protected by Airlock are under continual observation at La Roche. All access requests to the platform are systematically monitored and filtered at all levels. Access is only granted to successfully and clearly authenticated users via authorised connections. Each request must run through a multi-level filter here that automatically identifies and blocks any unauthorised access or manipulation attempts in a fraction of a second.

Günter Tschan summarises positively: "As a financial institution, it is of existential significance for us that our e-banking system is protected as best as is at all possible against attacks of all kinds. The business damage in combination with the associated image loss that would result from a successful attack can have devastating consequences for any bank – so it is good to know that we have a product in use with Airlock that does justice to the highest of security standards!"



*"Airlock provides the maximum level of security and protects our e-banking solution as best as possible. Airlock is already in successful operation in many financial institutions – this gives us the certainty that we are relying on a solution that has already been proved effective in practice."*

Günter Tschan  
Project Manager E-Services, La Roche & Co