



[DATEV eG](#) was founded in 1966 and is one of Europe's largest software and service companies. Its financial accounting, tax, human resources and business administration software and services generated more than €1.4 billion in operating revenues in 2023.

### Industry

Software

### VMware footprint

- VMware® Tanzu® Platform
- VMware Tanzu Spring®

# DATEV Accelerates Tax and Finance Software Innovations with VMware Tanzu Platform

When DATEV eG needed to modernize its application development and deployment pipeline while scaling in a secure private cloud, it turned to VMware Tanzu solutions from Broadcom. Using VMware Tanzu Platform and Tanzu Spring, a Java development framework, the company develops and deploys new tax, finance and business administration applications and features in days. Automated operations enable quick patching of both applications and the platform itself for 18,000 containers running on environments in Tanzu Platform for Cloud Foundry.

## Supporting millions of businesses with trustworthy services

Tax consultants, auditors and lawyers in Germany rely on DATEV software and services to support millions of small and medium-sized businesses. Headquartered in Nuremberg, DATEV began as a data processing cooperative in 1966. Over nearly six decades, the company has expanded and earned the trust of its customers by providing high quality, secure and highly performant software products in one of the most highly regulated industries in Europe. Today, its staff of 9,000 employees includes some 1,700 software developers to support approximately 200 products and services, from payroll processing applications to financial reporting tools.

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“Simplifying complex technologies provides better experiences for developers and helps them focus on their business logic. Our VMware environment streamlines our processes so that developers can be more productive in pursuit of greater innovation.”

Jürgen Sußner, Principal Cloud Platform Engineer, DATEV eG

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### Keeping up with the pace of industry changes

As technology evolved from magnetic tape and mainframes, DATEV transitioned to delivering Windows-based applications to its customers on discs, later evolving to software-as-a-service (SaaS) products with hosted Java-based applications. In recent years, the company sought to modernize its IT infrastructure and put in place more flexible and efficient application development processes and tooling to help it keep up with the rapid pace of industry changes.

“We started looking at cloud platform technologies where our developer teams could develop and run applications on their own without the administrative bottlenecks,” says Jürgen Sußner, principal cloud platform engineer, DATEV.

### Streamlining application development

Due to the sensitivity of the financial data the company handles, DATEV must operate its own data centers and cloud environment. The company adopted a ‘you build it, you run it’ DevOps approach, going all-in on the Tanzu Spring framework with tight runtime integrations on Tanzu Platform for Cloud Foundry (formerly Tanzu Application Service).

“The hardest part was not the technology itself, which is easy to use,” says Sußner. “The biggest challenge was overcoming siloed mindsets and the fear of being responsible for operating the applications. VMware Tanzu Platform and Tanzu Spring solutions reduce the complexity and that is what gives confidence to our developers.”

Some 200 teams of developers now create and run their applications with all the self-service tools they need, without waiting on the assistance of an admin. Former admins now consult with developer teams on the platform and set up guardrails that ensure compliance with internal policies while enabling the teams with great flexibility and scalability.

The company runs 18,000 containers on Tanzu Platform. Software patches roll out quickly and automatically to help keep the DATEV platform and application environments secure. “We recently patched application platforms that host 18,000 containers four times in one week. That wouldn’t have been possible without all the automation we have with Tanzu Platform,” says Sußner.

Accelerated DevOps pipelines allow DATEV to keep pace with ongoing changes in tax laws, introduce feature improvements and pursue new revenue opportunities. “The most outstanding KPI we achieve is time to market. We can innovate faster, going from an idea to an application in production, with all the necessary tests and security checks, within one or two business days,” Sußner says.

Such was the case during the COVID-19 pandemic, when DATEV worked with the German government to rapidly develop and deploy an application verifying tax consultants authorized to file compensation requests on behalf of local companies affected by the pandemic. “The turnaround time from that first phone call was quite impressive,” Sußner says. “It demonstrated the great value that DATEV brings to its customers and their end customers, ultimately making an important impact on the economy.”

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DATEV teams are working to migrate and consolidate existing applications onto its cloud platform, including modernizing mainframe applications and re-architecting legacy batch jobs with a more event-focused approach. “We’re getting performance that is four times better than it was on the mainframe,” Sußner says. “For some of our Java applications, we can create a Java Enterprise environment within Tanzu Platform and simply lift and shift.”

### Exploring further with AI-powered features

By the end of the decade, the company aims to deliver every one of its applications as cloud-based solutions.

In the meantime, Sußner appreciates exploring new features in Tanzu Platform, such as those that include artificial intelligence. “Making AI easily accessible to developers is surely game-changing for the platform,” he says. Sußner also sees the value in new observability integrations that automatically provide tools and metrics for application health and performance as soon as an application is added to the environment.

“Simplifying complex technologies provides better experiences for developers and helps them focus on their business logic,” Sußner says. “Our VMware Tanzu environment streamlines our processes so that developers can be more productive in pursuit of greater innovation.”