Case Study

beyond digital business

Beyond Digital Business Accelerates Travel-Expenses Admin with Artificial Intelligence

Beyond Digital Business takes the hassle out of travel expense accounting. With help from UDIT GmbH and Kofax, the company launched Xpense2Cash—a mobile app that accelerates expense management workflows by 75 percent, freeing staff to focus on value-added tasks instead of filling out forms.

75%
Faster Travel-Expense Management

Delivers
High User Satisfaction

2
Red Dot Design Awards Won

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Meet Beyond Digital Business

WWW.BEYOND-DIGITAL-BUSINESS.COM

Beyond Digital Business is a future-oriented IT specialist based in Germany. Its focus is on harnessing digital workflows to automate manual processes and boost productivity. Beyond Digital Business delivers mobile apps that transform administrative processes. Its flagship product is the award-winning Xpense2Cash app, which enables smart travel expense accounting using artificial intelligence.

Products in Use

Kofax Capture™
Kofax Mobile Capture™ Platform
Kofax Mobile Capture SDK™
Kofax RealTime Transformation Interface (RTTI)
Kofax Transformation™
Kofax Transformation Modules

Focus

Travel Expense Management, Data Capture, Process Automation

Meet UDIT GmbH

WWW.UDIT.DE

UDIT GmbH is an IT services provider and mobile app developer based in Germany. With 20 years of experience in the industry, the company specializes in innovative IT solutions for customized workflows. UDIT has 10,000 active users and processes 500,000 documents per year. UDIT manages and operates a wide range of Kofax products to support the Xpense2Cash app including Kofax Capture, Kofax Mobile Capture Platform, Kofax Mobile Capture SDK, Kofax RealTime Transformation Interface (RTTI), Kofax Transformation and Kofax Transformation Modules.

"Our partner UDIT GmbH was really focused on solving a problem, not on selling licenses or tools. UDIT GmbH were already experts in the Kofax Mobile Capture Platform, and we saw that the Kofax solution managed by UDIT GmbH would fit our requirements perfectly."

Tom Stulla, CEO, Beyond Digital Business

Challenge

Business travel is a regular activity for many employees. Large enterprises often require staff to travel between offices or visit partner and customer sites. At the end of every trip, employees can be left with dozens of receipts, including plane or train tickets, taxi bills, hotel bookings, restaurant bills—the list goes on. All receipts must be registered and processed by the accounts department to reimburse staff.

Keeping track of all receipts and then passing them on to line managers and the accounts department can be time-consuming and repetitive. Crucially, it distracts staff from their actual jobs. Tom Stulla, CEO of Beyond Digital Business, confirms, "Companies are often so focused on their core business, that they overlook how much time their staff spend on documentation and other supporting processes, which can quickly add up. When we developed the concept for a new travel expense accounting app, named Xpense2Cash, our goal was to minimize the time and effort required to process receipts and, in turn, maximize productivity."

After identifying that travel expenses would be an ideal candidate for process innovation, Beyond Digital Business set out to make its vision a reality. The big question was how to best address the need for faster, more efficient processes in a way that would help staff to focus on value-added tasks instead of routine admin and form-filling.

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Tom Stulla adds, "We needed a simple, smart solution that would not be just another tool people have to learn, but be intuitive and easy to use right from the start. In order to remove distractions from core business tasks and improve the lives of employees, we had to find the right partners that could help us deliver on our promise."

Solution

Moving from concept to product, Beyond Digital Business evaluated a range of software vendors and service providers. Tom Stulla recalls, "We talked to all the big names in the industry all across Europe to find a partner with the right tools and the right mindset. We quickly realized that the highly skilled specialists at UDIT GmbH were really focused on solving a problem, not on selling licenses or tools. UDIT GmbH were already experts in the Kofax Mobile Capture Platform, and we saw that the Kofax solution managed by UDIT GmbH would fit our requirements perfectly."

The Beyond Digital Business and UDIT GmbH teams established agile working practices from day one. The development of the apps for Android and Apple iOS was broken down into short development sprints, following the Scrum framework for agile project management. Software developers and user experience designers from UDIT GmbH worked closely with Beyond Digital Business and end-users to come up with an early prototype within days.

Tom Stulla emphasizes, "Our partner UDIT GmbH provided pragmatic suggestions and sensible advice to help us to take the concept to the next stage very quickly."

At the beginning of the implementation, the joint team dedicated several design sprints focused solely on interaction design. Over a number of iterations, the new app, Xpense2Cash, began to take shape. The solution enables users to take pictures of receipts with their mobile phones, which are then scanned and processed automatically behind the scenes.

"The Kofax Mobile Capture SDK is a core component of the Xpense2Cash app, giving Beyond Digital Business a reliable and extensible platform."

Stefan Thielen, CEO, UDIT GmbH

UDIT GmbH refined and retrained the machine learning models to further improve data-extraction and data-matching performance. Stefan Thielen, CEO of UDIT GmbH, explains, "The Kofax Mobile Capture SDK is a core component of the Xpense2Cash app, giving Beyond Digital Business a reliable and extensible platform to capture receipts with high accuracy, and then analyze the extracted data with artificial intelligence and machine learning technologies in real time. This results in fast, smooth user experience that saves time and reduces complexity."

The Kofax solutions are managed by UDIT GmbH and include many features critical for a fast and frictionless user journey. Most receipts are scanned and processed using the patented Kofax Virtual ReScan (VRS) image-perfection technology, which cleans up, de-skews and reduces the image size. If the documents are already digital, such as PDF receipts or photos captured outside of the app, the user can upload the files directly into the app.

Building on top of the high-quality imaging, the solution operated by UDIT GmbH uses additional Kofax software, including Kofax Transformation Modules and Kofax RealTime Transformation Interface (RTTI), to automatically extract and validate the content without delays. The advanced data classification capabilities of Kofax Transformation help to categorize receipts and integrate approval workflows and other business rules.

Tom Stulla remarks, "Outstanding developer expertise and powerful technology enabled us to build a solution that really works. In close collaboration with our partners UDIT GmbH and Kofax, we have successfully launched the Xpense2Cash mobile app. One client has already rolled the app out to 5,800 users."

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Results

Since its launch, the Xpense2Cash app has already received two Red Dot awards—an international accolade recognized for its focus on design quality. Xpense2Cash won a Red Dot Award for Brands and Communication Design in the categories of Finance Apps and Mobile User Interfaces. Stefan Thielen states, "We are very proud to have won two Red Dot design awards, which show that our effort to build an intuitive and beautiful app has been a great success."

Xpense2Cash provides a range of features that are useful for staff on the go. Beyond capturing data, receipts can easily be assigned to different trips, giving everyone a complete cost overview with summary reports and a currency converter right within the app.

Tom Stulla says, "In just one quarter, we have processed more than 17,500 receipts. For each trip and each receipt, Xpense2Cash enables employees to complete expenses admin 75 percent faster than traditional methods. This makes a huge difference for busy managers, salespeople, field service staff and any other employees who travel regularly."

Enterprises often face a choice between the fully integrated features of large software packages and a collection of best-of-breed solutions to support travel expense management. While integrated standard software appears attractive at first, Beyond Digital Business recognizes that flexibility and user experience increasingly influence enterprise decision-making.

Tom Stulla comments, "Individual business processes require tailored solutions. From our conversations with clients, we know that best-of-breed products like our Xpense2Cash app can offer a much better user experience. The big benefit for our clients is the ability to adapt the tool to their unique ways of working—and not the other way around. One of our first clients has reported quick adoption by business users where more than 90 percent like the app design.

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Tom Stulla, CEO, Beyond Digital Business

"Over 80 percent of users find it easy to add new receipts, contributing to the very high overall satisfaction rating for Xpense2Cash. This is down to the smooth user experience, enabled by the excellent Kofax capture, extraction and classification capabilities."

Despite the sophisticated technology, the Kofax platform is simple to manage to ensure consistently accurate results. Stefan Thielen elaborates, "Introducing a new solution is one thing. Maintaining it and making sure it continues to provide business value over time is a separate challenge. In our experience at UDIT GmbH, Kofax technology is a shining example of how to do things right. With a short training workshop of one or two hours, business users can gain all the knowledge they need to fine-tune data extraction and update machine learning models. This means that enterprises using Xpense2Cash have more flexibility, and can respond more quickly to new types of receipts and incoming data."

Tom Stulla concludes, "Xpense2Cash is a great example of how artificial intelligence and machine learning can make a positive difference to the day-to-day lives of working people. Together with our partners UDIT GmbH and Kofax, we are already planning to expand our offering to bring process innovation to more business areas and other administrative workflows in the future."

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