

Forms Cost money.

- * every day
- * customer forms
- * government forms
- * grant applications
- * quality certificates
- * compliance documents
- * employee forms

— nobody enjoys doing this work.

But it still has to be done.

And it costs more than most companies realize.



What a Form Really Costs

2 forms per week, 45 minutes per form. At €21/hour (€14 wage + 50% payroll costs):

1.638 €

Per employee/year

78 hours × €21/hour
– just for filling them out

32.760 €

For 20 employees

A hidden cost block in every budget

163.800 €

For 100 employees

This is not small change
– it is a strategic problem

Why does it take so long?

Most time is lost in the search & preparation
— not in filling in the form itself.

E-Mail / Email

Name / Name

Adresse / Address

Straße / Street

Nummer / Number

PLZ / Zip Code

Ort / City



What if forms could describe their own meaning?



A form contains not only empty fields — but also describes:

- Which data is required
- What this data means
- Which calculations are possible
- Which rules apply

i The employee checks. The system collects.

The idea behind eForm

eForm defines forms as structured, machine-readable objects — not as empty sheets.

What eForm defines



What forms can do as a result

Structured data

Machine-readable
meaning

Be validated

Be filled
automatically

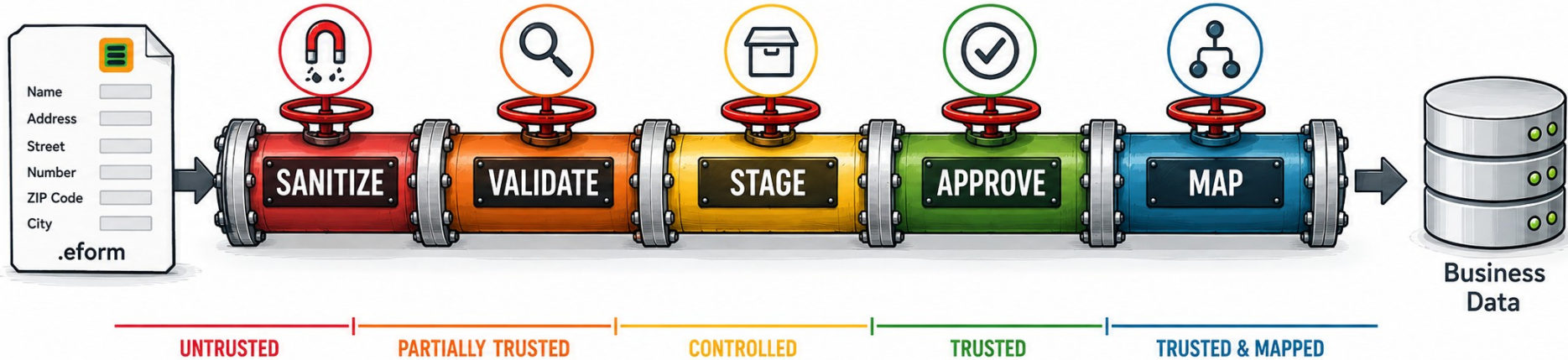
Integrated
calculations

Open standards

Be checked
automatically

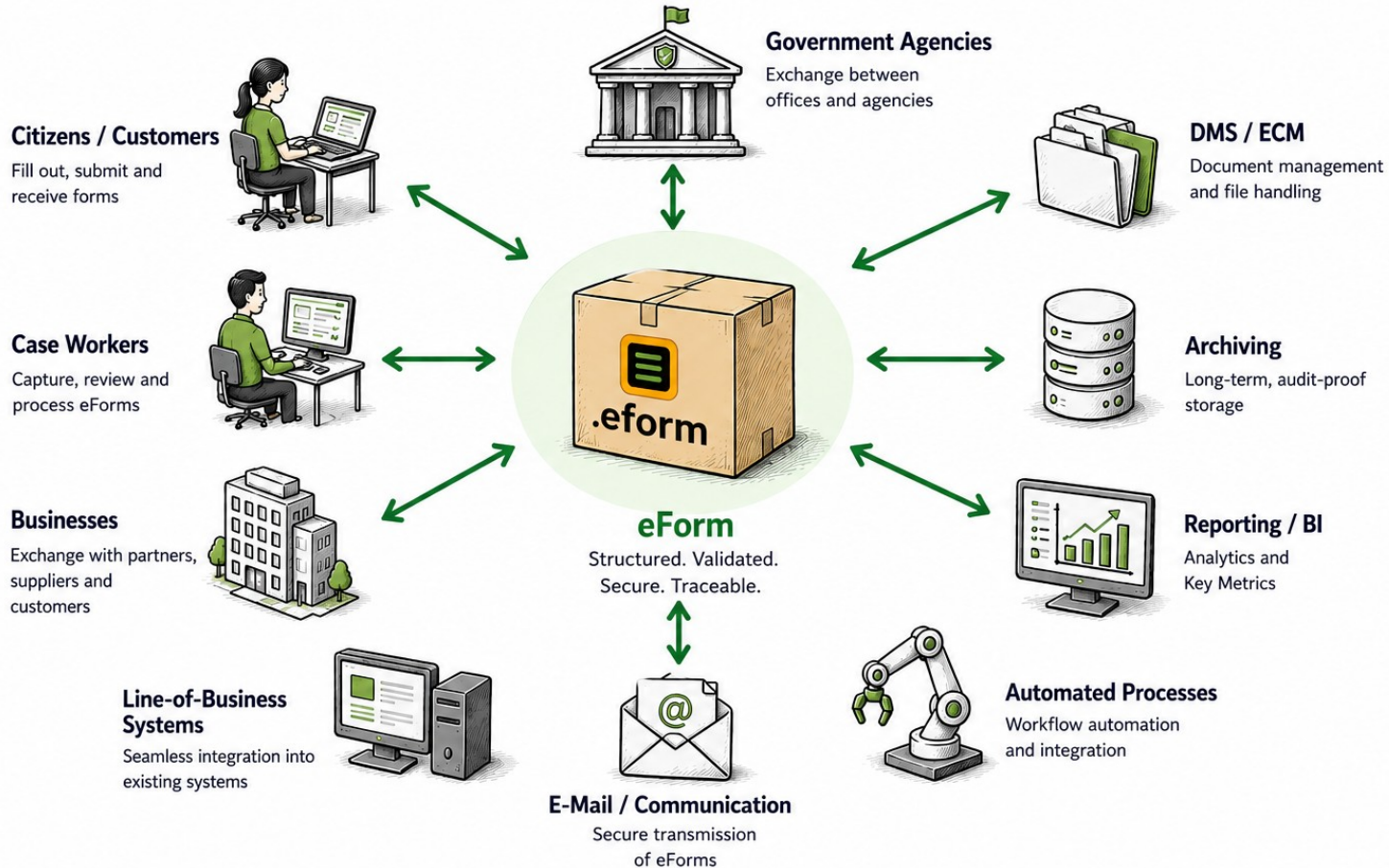
Be archived
long-term

The eForm Import-Pipeline



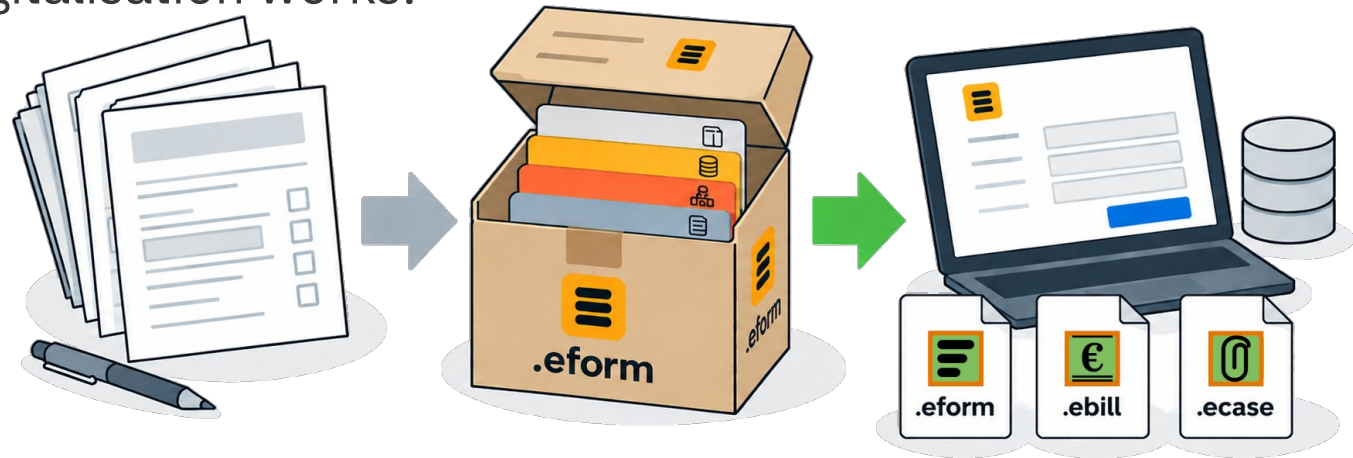
eForms connect people, organizations and systems

A common language for the secure exchange of structured data.



5 stages of digitalisation:

- 1) analogue bureaucracy ~~xy~~ „You must obtain Permit A 38!“
- 2) Now we have computers!
- 3) We have accepted computers!
- 4) Now we are digital!
- 5) THAT’S how digitalisation works!



1) You must obtain Permit A 38!

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2) Now we have computers!



3) We have accepted computers!



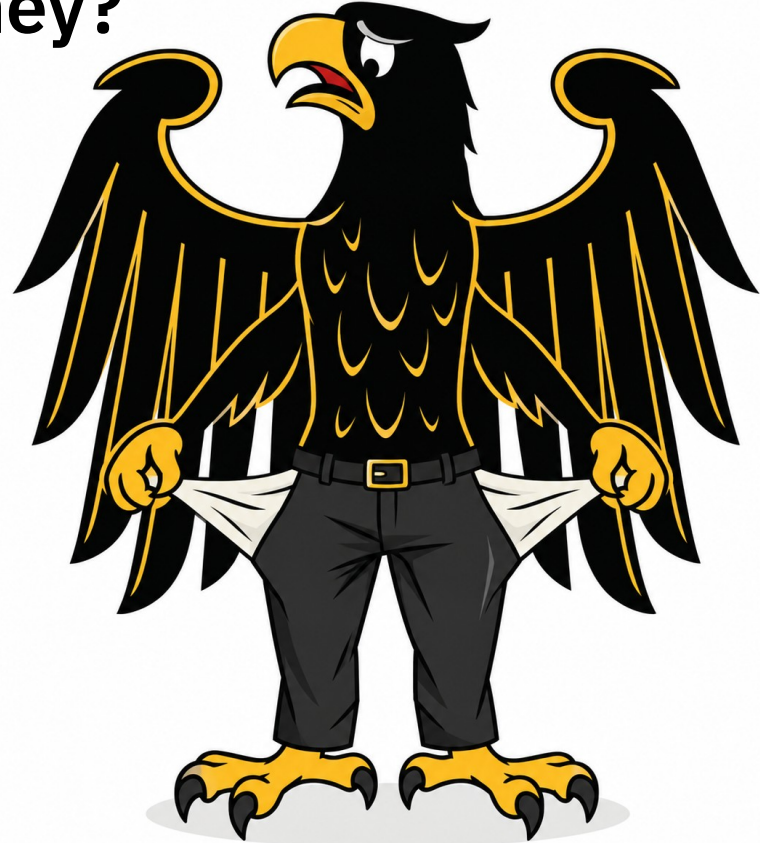
4) Now we are digital!



5) THAT'S how digitalisation works!



**Another one of those fancy new things
that will only cost us money?**



Requirements for implementation

Authorities

- provision of forms
- import-
infrastructure

Companies

- provision of forms
- import-
infrastructure

Software-Providers

- integration of
existing forms with
databases
- development of a
mapper

Public Infrastructure

Implementation via Open Source & through central coordination

- Unified framework or website based on the

existing eForm web viewer

https://www.mjehnichen.de/projekte/libeform/implementations/web_viewer/web_viewer.html

→ **already available** as the open-source library “libeform”

- Plugins for the most widely used browsers
- Apps for Android & iPhone

- **“If a government cannot define its information requirements so that citizens and businesses can fulfil them with minimal automated effort, it has failed at digitalisation.”**

— Marco Jehnichen

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