



Lefebvre Sarrut Services steps into the future with a managed hybrid cloud

Why LSS needed a unified architecture model

Following a period of acquisition driven growth, French publishing house Lefebvre Sarrut Services (LSS) was faced with a variety of operating environments. In order to support the program of expansion, the organization had to gain control of their IT infrastructure across the group, consolidating and centralizing it into a single European data center.

How a hybrid architecture allowed LSS take control of their IT architecture

By adopting a hybrid cloud architecture LSS were able to migrate around 1,400 servers to the cloud in a series of carefully planned waves, transforming the majority of applications to run in the cloud as part of the migration process.

What a flexible architecture allows the LSS to achieve

With more than 200 applications in the NTT cloud the IT team has been able to take control of their environment, allowing the team to become more involved in strategic and business-critical projects. With the infrastructure taken care of, the team can also focus on application development, spending time and resources on application development and lifecycle management, and bringing new services to market much more quickly.



'We have complete peace of mind about our infrastructure, its availability and performance, and its ability to scale as required.' That lets us focus our time and resources on application development and lifecycle management, and helps us bring new services to market much more quickly.'

Christophe Le Caignec, Head of IT Operations, Lefebvre Sarrut Services

Challenge

Why LSS needed a unified architecture model

French publishing house Lefebvre Sarrut Services (LSS), provides publications, training and other services, through online and offline channels. They help legal, tax, and accounting professionals develop their knowledge, become more effective, and act as valued business partners in these strategic areas within their organizations.

As a result of a long-term acquisition strategy the group found itself with a disparate IT landscape, with a variety of architectures and operating systems fragmented across 20 data centers, managed by local IT teams with different skillsets and processes.

They realized that they had to gain control of their IT infrastructure across the group, consolidating and centralizing it into a single European data center.

They needed to be confident about infrastructure availability and performance, and its ability to recover from any incidents. Scalability was critical to supporting growth in usage, and agility was vital to accelerating digital transformation.

On top of that, they were looking for a more cost-effective IT infrastructure that replaced capital expenditure with a pay-as-you-go charging model. This provided cloud-like Infrastructure-as-a-Service (IaaS), but gave them scope in the same data center to collocate servers hosting a number of legacy applications that couldn't be migrated to the cloud.

Solution

How a hybrid architecture allowed LSS take control of their IT architecture

Having articulated its IT infrastructure requirements in an RFP based on a demanding specification brief, LSS selected an Enterprise Cloud solution from NTT. Enterprise Cloud is a hybrid cloud environment that supports both traditional and cloud-native IT, offers secure and stable operations, and has flexibility and agility built in.

'We ruled out providers unable to offer a hybrid cloud with options for managing legacy platforms and systems that couldn't be virtualized. That would have led to the migration of only a small proportion of our estate, which would have defeated the purpose of the exercise,' says Le Caignec.

As well as meeting the group's technical requirements, the NTT cloud offered them the pay-as-you-go pricing model they were after.

Once the build was complete, they migrated around 1,400 servers running the group's internal and client-facing applications and services to the cloud in a series of carefully planned waves, transforming the majority of applications to run in the cloud as part of the migration process.

Outcome

What a flexible architecture allows the LSS to achieve

Today LSS has more than 200 applications and services in the NTT environment. Around 90% are running in the cloud, with the remainder in a colocation environment, and all are interconnected. 'Those 200 apps and services include our most critical assets – the online stores and subscriber portals that account for more than half of LSS's turnover,' says Le Caignec.

Management of those applications and services is now in the hands of the IT operations team. 'Many of the group's revenue-generating digital services used to be managed by third parties, but we've now taken back control and brought all that knowledge and capability in house,' he says. 'It's a source of pride for the team, and is part of a significant evolution in the role of IT operations, which is now much more involved in strategic and business-critical projects.'

Another major change is that they can concentrate much more on application development. 'We have complete peace of mind about our infrastructure, its availability and performance, and its ability to scale as required,' says the Head of IT Operations. 'That lets us focus our time and resources on application development and lifecycle management, and helps us bring new services to market much more quickly.'

Migrating to the cloud also provides them with considerable cost savings. 'Since adopting the Enterprise Cloud solution, the savings we've achieved run to several million euros a year, which is a significant benefit for the group,' says Le Caignec. 'The project has provided an excellent return on investment and has, in fact, paid for itself.'

In addition, regular internal ROI reports allowed the group's leadership team to understand what the project was costing, and how much it was saving.