Hewlett Packard Enterprise

PiLeJe relies on its new IT system for future success

HPE updates PiLeJe's IT system infrastructure for the next five years

Objective
In 2013, PiLeJe's global infrastructure was non-standardised and had reached the end of its warranty. The aim was to standardise along with the servers and storage, in order to optimise processing times

Approach
After issuing an invitation to tender, PiLeJe opted for HPE virtualised servers and storage arrays, a solution which was agreed and rolled out by Iliane

IT Matters
- Standardise IT tools over the four company sites
- Remote monitoring of virtual infrastructure
- Durability of the installation over the next five years
- Facilitate scalability with HPE solutions

Business Matters
- 99.5 per cent infrastructure availability rate
- Almost instantaneous access to data thanks to the HPE Array and Automated Tiering

The PiLeJe Group, which specialises in micronutrition and phytotherapy products, was using a non-standardised IT infrastructure that was out of warranty. After issuing an invitation to tender, the group chose an HPE storage array and virtualised server-based solution, on the advice of its partner, Iliane. Now standardised and operational, the new installation offers a 99.5 per cent availability rate.

Challenge

Standardise the infrastructure to optimise data processing
The PiLeJe Group develops and distributes concepts, products and services intended to protect and maintain personal health. Within the scope of this work, two fields were selected: Micronutrition and phytotherapy. At present, the PiLeJe Group consists of the PiLeJe laboratory, the PhytoPrevent brand and Wamine, the group's veterinary branch.

It employs 300 staff across four sites in France. Its products are currently available in 20 countries as well as in metropolitan France and its overseas departments and territories.

"PiLeJe chose a solution based on Hewlett Packard Enterprise products due to several factors, the most significant one being the confidence we have in our partner, Iliane, with whom we have been working since 2010."

– Alexandre Dodier, IT operations manager, PiLeJe Group

The group has increased the size of its premises in Paris and St-Laurent-des-Autels in Anjou. The latter houses an order preparation and dispatch platform, a call centre and all the group's support services. This site is the heart of the IT system. Expansion of its performance would enable PiLeJe to support any company developments.

In 2013, PiLeJe's global IT infrastructure came to the end of its warranty. Across the company, non-standardised systems were used over the various sites. "The aim," highlights Alexandre Dodier, IT operations manager for the PiLeJe Group, "is to standardise our tools including servers and storage, and to place our users at the heart of the IT system."

In other words, to optimise processing time for the company's integrated management software package and save time in regards to the availability of access to statistical data. Redesigning the infrastructure was therefore essential.

Solution

HPE virtualised servers and storage arrays

After issuing an invitation to tender, to virtualisation and storage specialists, PiLeJe chose the solution based on Hewlett Packard Enterprise products as a result of several factors. The first was that the technical proposal proved to be flexible and scalable over the next five years, without having to compromise any other part of the infrastructure.

The second concerned the stability of products installed. "But the most important thing was the confidence that we have in our partner, Iliane, with whom we have been working since 2010," states Dodier.

For four years, PiLeJe has been using infrastructure based on HPE products - stable from the outset, and has also evolved over the years. Furthermore, Iliane has always been capable of dealing with any issues, whether these relate to modification, maintenance or problem-solving.

This partner also remotely monitors PiLeJe's storage, network and backup data. Iliane's own data centre hosts the entire email service belonging to the group who specialise in micronutrition and phytotherapy. The service provider's confidence and capacity to support the change were fundamental.

At the main site in St-Laurent-des-Autels, there are currently three HPE ProLiant DL380 servers using VMware for virtualisation, connected to an HPE 3PAR StoreServ 7200 storage array with a volume of 8TB. Part of this memory takes the form of Solid State Drives (SSD) to ensure optimal performance. If the installation operates all day long, the array will perform 'automated tiering' at night and automatically move blocks of data onto these SSDs, so that users will have almost instantaneous access to this data.

At the three other sites, Iliane had the intelligence to recover the existing systems. Indeed, the two HPE ProLiant DL380 servers that are still under warranty, previously located at the group's main site, have been moved; one to the Paris site and the other to the Ebreuil site. They were upgraded and now function in the same way, using VMware and with the same features. Finally, the Champoceaux site, recently updated and equipped with two HPE ProLiant DL385 servers, has simply been equipped with a HPE P4300 Storage Array.

Benefit

Almost 100 per cent availability

The global infrastructure now functions in a standardised manner. Communication between the four sites takes place through fibre optics at 20 MB/s at all locations except 'Ebreuil' which is connected via an SDSL 8 MB/s line.

Customer at a glance

Hardware

- HPE ProLiant DL385 Server
- HPE P4300 G2 Storage Systems
- HPE ProLiant DL380p Gen8 Server
- HPE 3PAR StoreServ 7200
- HPE ProLiant DL380 Server

HPE services

- HPE 4-Hour 24x7 Proactive Care Service 3 year

"The fact that our backup system relies on comprehensive data replication in a data centre is one of the differentiating factors that made us choose the HPE 3PAR array. It is supplied with all the necessary replication software to allow us to install another array immediately."

– Alexandre Dodier, IT operations manager, PiLeJe Group

The new infrastructure is also overseen, via a new HPE Proactive Care contract, by Iliane, which was already monitoring the correct operation of the network and storage. The aim is to ensure a 99.5 per cent availability rate.

A disaster recovery plan for 2015

In the event of a system failure, PiLeJe has implemented a backup system in the form of Disaster Recovery Plan (DRP). The principle is based on comprehensive data replication in a data centre. As a result, all of the infrastructure can be recovered in less than 48 hours with information dating back to the previous day. "This is also one of the differentiating factors that made us choose the HPE 3PAR array," explains Dodier. "This storage system is supplied with all the necessary replication software to allow us to install another array immediately. This guarantees the durability of the installation."

The support of a true partner

Iliane established a climate of trust with the PiLeJe Group through availability, support, anticipation, knowledge of the market and of course, HPE products are the key factors in their relationship with the company. Not to mention the fact they offer proposals based on the various changes in business and technology. "Thanks to Iliane, we have a clear vision of our mid to long-term infrastructure. This is an essential advantage in ensuring the sustainability of the company's presence in France and on an international level," concludes Dodier.

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