



Consumer Products

Moving up the pecking order

SAVEL

How SAVEL selected Lenovo ThinkSystem solutions, powered by 2nd Gen Intel® Xeon® Scalable processors, to support reliable multi-site operations.

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Lenovo

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Who is SAVEL?

SAVEL is the European leader in the production of small poultry such as cockerels, chickens, guinea fowl, and quail. The company is active throughout the production chain, from rearing to processing, and sells whole birds as well as joints and fillets. Based in Brittany, SAVEL employs 320 people and processes more than 40 million birds annually, serving supermarkets, distributors, and the restaurant trade both in France and internationally.



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The Challenge

To meet customer demand for its high-quality fresh meat products, it is vital for SAVEL to keep its processing and packing plants fully operational throughout long working days. The company runs its operations using COPILOTE ERP, a suite of applications tailored to the needs of the agrifood industry. These applications run at its headquarters and at four processing plants across Brittany and beyond.

“Any downtime in production would have a negative impact on our customers, as well as causing ongoing disruption to our operations, so we aim to get as close as possible to 100% availability for key systems. For this reason, we run local instances of COPILOTE in our processing plants, so that operations can continue even if communication with our headquarters is interrupted.”

Arnaud Narvor
CIO, SAVEL

The six-year-old infrastructure supporting the ERP solution at SAVEL was continuing to offer adequate performance but was no longer covered by a standard warranty. Given the potential impact of unplanned downtime, SAVEL wanted to reduce its business risk by refreshing the server and storage hardware across its five sites.

“We simply couldn’t afford to risk a hardware failure; we wanted the peace of mind that comes with hardware that is still under the manufacturer’s warranty,” says Narvor. “Given our specific requirements around IT security and uptime, we felt that a software-as-a-service [SaaS] approach was not right for SAVEL, and we planned instead to maintain our existing on-premises approach.”



“Our objective was to replace the existing infrastructure with one at least as high-performing and offering lower ongoing costs. We pulled together a precise list of requirements, including allowances for ongoing development and growth. A key requirement was to ensure high-quality ongoing maintenance from the hardware supplier, backed by attentive support services working as an extension of our relatively small internal technical team.”

Arnaud Narvor
CIO, SAVEL



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“SAVEL serves a number of large corporations, and it’s good for us to demonstrate to them that we use technology from global leaders like Intel and Lenovo to ensure the reliability of our operations.”

Arnaud Narvor
CIO, SAVEL

Fast and smooth deployment

SAVEL deployed a total of six Lenovo ThinkSystem SR630 servers powered by 2nd Gen Intel® Xeon® Scalable processors, two at its headquarters and the others at its four processing plants. The company also deployed a Lenovo ThinkSystem DE4000H hybrid storage array at its headquarters, plus a ThinkSystem SR550 for backup and a Lenovo-supplied IBM TS2900 Tape Autoloader for data archival.

“We took the opportunity to refresh the entire production environment, making another technological jump by upgrading to the latest VMware and Veeam software,” says Narvor. “And to help protect against new threats such as cryptolockers, we also overhauled our backup and recovery arrangements to include both online and offline data archives.”

Hardware

Lenovo ThinkSystem SR630
Lenovo ThinkSystem DE4000H
Hybrid Storage Array

SAVEL worked closely with Asten during all stages of the installation and set-up of the new infrastructure, helping to ensure that both parties have a good understanding of the environment and DR plans—a vital consideration for effective long-term support.

“The implementation of the new hardware was fast and smooth, and we enjoyed working with the Asten team,” recalls Narvor. “The migration of the existing virtualized ERP landscape was certainly not trivial, as we needed to keep the majority of services running without interruption. But we were able to achieve that, so from the business perspective there was practically no impact.”



“Operations at SAVEL run between 2am and 9pm, so maintenance windows are very short, which places a significant premium on reliable IT infrastructure. Our new Lenovo ThinkSystem servers provide the reliability and availability we need to support these long working days.”

Arnaud Narvor
CIO, SAVEL

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Results

Deploying Lenovo ThinkSystem servers with 2nd Gen Intel® Xeon® Scalable processors has provided a welcome boost in performance for key systems at SAVEL. In particular, faster I/O translates into improved response time for the Oracle Databases supporting the COPILOTE ERP system and for Microsoft SQL Server databases supporting other applications.

"The migration was completely invisible for the users, apart from the improved performance," says Narvor. "We also achieve much better availability than we would in a SaaS model, where we would be dependent on our internet connection."



>99.999% availability for key business systems



Reduced maintenance costs and full warranty backing



Convenient and responsive local support

Adopting new hardware has significantly reduced maintenance costs for SAVEL, in addition to providing the peace of mind of a full manufacturer's warranty. Asten remains on hand to provide responsive support and augment SAVEL's internal skillsets.

"Our in-house technical team is quite thinly spread across multiple technologies, so it's great to have Asten as an external partner that knows the environment and can be relied on to help manage the hardware," says Narvor. "In practice, we have experienced no issues whatsoever with the new Lenovo hardware, so we're able to plan confidently for the future."



"SAVEL understands the importance of having a strong local presence even if your business is global. Lenovo also combines that local and global capability, giving us a high-quality, reliable infrastructure on which to base our growing business."

Arnaud Narvor
CIO, SAVEL

Why **Lenovo**?

While SAVEL was already using Lenovo equipment, the choice of vendor was not a foregone conclusion. The company looked carefully at the market and spoke to a number of global vendors.

"It was important for us to engage with a recognized global technology leader but with true local presence and the ability to physically attend any of our sites at short notice," says Narvor. "We chose to work with Lenovo and its partner Asten because they offer the level of maintenance and support that we want. Naturally, pricing was a factor, but service was more important: We don't want to invest and never see the vendor again. We want reliable partners who will be close at hand and committed to supporting us for at least five years, and this is what we have achieved with Lenovo and Asten."



How Do You Support a Growing Business?

Keeping core systems supporting multi-site operations reliably
and cost-effectively with Lenovo and Intel® technology.

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