



مصرف لبنان
BANQUE DU LIBAN

Banque to Liban

Industry and Location
Banking | Lebanon

Product and Services
SUSE Linux Enterprise Server for
z Systems and LinuxONE

Banque du Liban improves services and saves 60% in licensing costs with SUSE

Success Story

At-a-Glance

Looking to reduce costs without sacrificing performance, Banque du Liban migrated the Oracle databases supporting some of its most critical business applications to SUSE® Linux Enterprise Server for z Systems and LinuxONE. Today, Banque du Liban can take advantage of the impressive availability and performance of the mainframe while reducing Oracle licensing costs by 60%, enabling the bank to deliver vital IT services much more cost-effectively.

Overview

Banque du Liban, Lebanon's central bank, is responsible for safeguarding the state's monetary and economic stability. It has the exclusive right to issue the national currency, the Lebanese pound. The bank grants and regulates licenses governing the establishment of banks, financial institutions, brokerage firms and mutual funds. Headquartered in Beirut, Banque du Liban operates branches in major cities across the country.

Challenge

Banque du Liban plays a critical role in Lebanon's economy, managing everything from exchange rates to bank liquidity. National and international commercial, retail and investment banks, and other financial institutions operat-



ing in Lebanon depend on Banque du Liban's services. It is therefore critical that Banque du Liban's IT systems run smoothly around the clock.

For many years, Banque du Liban has relied on the IBM mainframe to support its core banking applications. Until recently, the bank's other key business applications, including its general ledger, ERP and HR systems, ran on Oracle Database on commodity x86 servers.

Ghassan Afioni, IT specialist, deputy director at Banque du Liban, takes up the story: "As our Oracle database landscape grew, so too did the licensing costs. We knew that this would become unsustainable in the long term and wanted to find a more cost-efficient alternative."

Solution

Banque du Liban realized that it could significantly reduce licensing costs by consolidating x86 workloads onto its IBM z13 servers.

“We’ve cut Oracle licensing costs by around 60% since migrating the databases to the mainframe — a phenomenal saving, which is thanks in large part to SUSE Linux Enterprise Server for IBM z Systems and LinuxONE.”

Ghassan Afiouni

IT Specialist, Deputy Directory
Banque du Liban

Afiouni comments: “When we looked into it more closely, we found that migrating Oracle from the x86 platform to the mainframe would not only reduce licensing costs but also increase availability and performance, and significantly reduce management effort. The results of our assessment were very compelling, so we decided to go ahead and make the move.”

Before beginning the migration, Banque du Liban chose SUSE Linux Enterprise Server (SLES) for z Systems and LinuxONE as the operating system to support the Oracle database landscape on the z13.

Afiouni recalls: “We reached out to our IBM contacts for advice on the best course of action. After evaluating the two recommended Linux distributions, we decided to go with the SUSE option. The attractive pricing tipped it in favor of SUSE, and we were also impressed by the level of after-sales support on offer.”

Today, the bank runs 10 Integrated Facility for Linux (IFL) processors on its production IBM z13 server and one IFL on the z13 server at its disaster recovery site. The IFLs are specifically designed to deliver maximum performance for Linux work-

loads at very high density, enabling the bank to run the same Oracle workload on fewer cores, significantly reducing its licensing costs. Combined with IBM z/VM virtualization technology, SLES for z Systems and LinuxONE enables Banque du Liban to utilize its mainframe platform to the fullest.

“The implementation of the SUSE solution went very smoothly,” says Afiouni. “We didn’t run into any major problems and were able to resolve a couple of smaller issues ourselves. However, it’s reassuring to know that SUSE is there for us if we ever do need support.”

Results

By selecting SLES for z Systems and LinuxONE as the strategic platform for its Oracle database landscape, Banque du Liban has made substantial savings on software licensing.

Afiouni remarks: “We’ve cut Oracle licensing costs by around 60% since migrating the databases to the mainframe — a phenomenal saving, which is thanks in large part to SLES for z Systems and LinuxONE. This will enable us to deliver

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essential IT services much more cost-effectively and means that we have the financial resources to scale our Oracle landscape to support future growth.”

In addition to reducing licensing costs, Banque du Liban has seen performance and availability soar since migrating its Oracle databases to the IBM z platform.

“The combination of SLES and z/VM delivers excellent performance, availability and flexibility,” says Afiouni. “Thanks to the SUSE solution, we can take advantage of the IFL processors in the mainframe and get the best possible performance. This means that applications dependent on the Oracle databases run seamlessly.”

He concludes, “SLES for z Systems and LinuxONE helps us to deliver better services to users at a lower cost — a win-win situation.”

Benefits

- Increases performance and availability of key business applications
- Enables the bank to maximize utilization of its mainframe
- 60% reduction in licensing costs for Oracle databases

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