LINKBYNET SUPPORTS AUCHANSUPER WITH ITS DEVELOPMENT IN VIETNAM

At the end of June 2015, AuchanSuper took over the operation of two supermarkets in the Hồ Chí Minh region of Vietnam, under the Simply Mart brand name. This move was a strategic step forward for the Group as part of its global expansion, initiated in Vietnam in September 2014. By the end of 2015, three more stores would open their doors in Vietnam. The Group sought to open between 8 and 12 stores in 2016, and as many again in 2017. Right from the start of 2015, AuchanSuper focused all its energy on opening these two stores. On site, there were fifty or so «business specialists», but no CIO. Moreover, there were no plans to invest in an internal infrastructure. And yet, the needs were all there: e-mail, payroll, accounting, cash registers and ERP... all these services and software required precise skills in terms of management and operation. Further, the entire IS needed to be up and running for the opening of the stores less than six months later.

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David Oliel, Simply Mart CFO.

Business case Retail

Thanks to its expertise in Facilities Management and the Cloud, Linkbynet was seen as the ideal IT services provider to support French Group AuchanSuper with the installation of its IS in Asia.

06 months to migrate the ERP; a record

07 Projects installed on Microsoft AZURE in Singapore

40 Servers facilities managed

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7 PROJECTS

- Migration of the Meti ERP to Azure.

The Auchan Group uses the METI ERP solution, geared towards mass retail and, in particular, interconnected to its cash registers, logistics and sales analysis. METI is both integrator and host of its solutions, but does not exist in the Cloud. This was a point of major concern for AuchanSuper. By drawing on its Cloud experience, Linkbynet offered to migrate the METI ERP to the Azure Cloud by implementing a POC. And it proved to be a success! Linkbynet thus deployed the METI ERP in production, and oversaw its 24/7 maintenance, supervision and monitoring.

- Topos project: interconnection of cash registers to the METI ERP solution.
- Fast project: start-up of accounting.
- FPT project: start-up of the HRIS project.
- Migration of Active Directories to structure the AuchanSuper Group’s security and user management policies.
- DRP. Replication of the stores’ sales servers in the Azure Cloud.
- Installation of the e-mail system on Office 365. Linkbynet configured some 50 e-mail boxes on Office 365.

“I’m positively convinced that we made the right choice. I appreciated the involvement and responsiveness of the Linkbynet teams.”

David Oliel, Simply Mart CFO

Auchan Group’s first entity in full Cloud mode

Given the context and the country’s scant existing datacenters, AuchanSuper quickly chose to fully outsource to the Cloud. For the Group, this «full Cloud» option was a definite first. It would even arouse the interest of the Auchan Group at large for new prospects. After a consultation, the CFO turned to Linkbynet.

Specialized in IS facilities management and multi-Cloud orchestration, the French company met all the requisite criteria: multiple areas of expertise in IS management, value-added services on the Cloud, and offering flexibility, agility and a follow-the-sun service (24/7), thanks to its subsidiaries implanted around the world. Lastly, its position as a French player established in Asia since 2014 facilitated exchange with local teams.

Deployment of the entire IS in six months

The choice to «go Cloud» was quickly made. Considering AuchanSuper’s status as a major player in mass retail, it was not feasible for them to host the data using a company operating in the same sector. Amazon Web Service was therefore quickly ruled out. Finally, the infrastructure was integrated on Microsoft Azure, one of the rare public Clouds to be installed in the region, and hosted locally in Singapore. And it proved to be a winning strategy: In less than six months, Linkbynet deployed the entire IS needed for the stores to operate properly.

Seven projects in parallel

Today, 7 projects are overseen in parallel, with no less than forty Azure servers facilities-managed. In fact, Linkbynet applied its methodologies and expertise to support the teams on the ground (see frame). This made for a very busy six months. But Linkbynet successfully negotiated every challenge. «No incidents or delays to report for the entire period» stresses Thuy Bui, Linkbynet Vietnam Director.