

Specsavers Focuses on Red Hat to Drive Open Source Technology Vision

JUL 09, 2014

World's leading optician selects Red Hat Enterprise Virtualization, Red Hat Enterprise Linux and Red Hat JBoss Middleware to streamline costs & business efficiencies

LONDON--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- Red Hat, Inc. (NYSE:RHT), the world's leading provider of open source solutions, today announced that Specsavers, the world's largest privately owned chain of opticians, has deployed Red Hat Enterprise Virtualization, Red Hat Enterprise Linux, Red Hat Satellite, and Red Hat JBoss Fuse to provide a reliable and stable platform for mission-critical applications across its range of more than 1,500 stores globally, its supply chain and datacentres in Guernsey, Denmark, and Australia.

Specsavers is an enthusiastic proponent of open source software and has been a Red Hat customer for more than ten years. Over time, the company has migrated its IT infrastructure from Sun Solaris to a standardised Red Hat environment, with servers running Red Hat Enterprise Linux supporting every store, the entire supply chain and several datacentres, constituting about 80 percent of the organization's global technology estate. Specsavers chose to standardise on Red Hat globally as a cost-effective technology that gives the consistency, stability, and reliability required in a retail environment. For Specsavers, the low operational costs it has experienced with Red Hat open source software are essential for the health of the business as it expands, enabling it to open new stores and refresh existing stores according to budget requirements whilst delivering on quality of customer service.

Red Hat JBoss Fuse powers the connectivity between the supply chain, the stores, and the head office data centre, giving Specsavers a robust, easy-to-use platform to integrate its applications, data, services and devices. The business is run on a joint venture partnership basis, with each store an independent business running store services and collecting customer data and order information. To enable innovation and drive core strategy, the business must remain agile, and crucial to this is the ability to easily change key underlying applications, services and processes used to make decisions, as well as process customer data effectively. Red Hat JBoss Fuse meets this need for Specsavers.

To support continued business growth, Specsavers has renewed and expanded its Red Hat Enterprise Virtualization estate across its business-critical data centres across the globe. It has increased the virtual footprint from 60 to 130 sockets following the purchase of a new Fujitsu blade server and can now run hundreds of virtual machines per blade server, benefiting from increased compute power at reduced cost.

Red Hat Enterprise Virtualization offers Specsavers the management functionality it needs and delivers excellent total cost of ownership (TCO) value, with lower maintenance costs and a lower upfront cost of deployment. Further positive advantages realised in Specsavers' application testing process as a result of Red Hat Enterprise Virtualization include faster resource allocation and the ability to replicate various environments without needing access to physical systems, which could typically consume large amounts of space. Specsavers is able to achieve faster creation of test and build environments, eliminating long lead times and cost associated to bring in physical resources, and enable old physical servers to be re-purposed.

Supporting Quotes:

Nigel Spain, Head of Technology & Innovation, Specsavers:

"We are a global business and need our technology infrastructure to support the heavy-lifting demands of an extensive retail environment. Red Hat enables us to deliver on our core values to customers by giving us the consistent, flexible, affordable platform we need to continue offering value for money and a personal service. One of the key principles of our IT strategy is to ensure we can keep innovating - if we are seeking new applications or platforms we need interoperability and open integration with other technology solutions. This is a key reason why we have deployed Red Hat extensively throughout the business."

Phil Andrews, regional VP of Northern and Eastern Europe, Red Hat

"We're pleased to be expanding our long-term relationship with Specsavers as its chosen open source partner to underpin its infrastructure across the board. Specsavers relies on Red Hat to deliver mission critical services and applications in its 1,500 stores, supply chain and data centres, while cutting costs as it embraces virtualization technology and drives efficiencies in the data centre."

Connect with Red Hat

Learn more about [Red Hat](#)

Get more [Red Hat news](#) or subscribe to the [Red Hat news RSS feed](#)

Follow [Red Hat on Twitter](#)

Join [Red Hat on Facebook](#)

Watch [Red Hat videos on YouTube](#)

Join [Red Hat on Google+](#)

Red Hat is the world's leading provider of open source software solutions, taking a community-powered approach to reliable and high-performing cloud, Linux, middleware, storage and virtualization technologies. Red Hat also offers award-winning support, training, and consulting services. As the connective hub in a global network of enterprises, partners, and open source communities, Red Hat helps create relevant, innovative technologies that liberate resources for growth and prepare customers for the future of IT. Learn more at <http://www.redhat.com>.

Forward-Looking Statements

Certain statements contained in this press release may constitute "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements provide current expectations of future events based on certain assumptions and include any statement that does not directly relate to any historical or current fact. Actual results may differ materially from those indicated by such forward-looking statements as a result of various important factors, including: risks related to delays or reductions in information technology spending; the effects of industry consolidation; the ability of the Company to compete effectively; the integration of acquisitions and the ability to market successfully acquired technologies and products; uncertainty and adverse results in litigation and related settlements; the inability to adequately protect Company intellectual property and the potential for infringement or breach of license claims of or relating to third party intellectual property; the ability to deliver and stimulate demand for new products and technological innovations on a timely basis; risks related to data and information security vulnerabilities; ineffective management of, and control over, the Company's growth and international operations; fluctuations in exchange rates; and changes in and a dependence on key personnel, as well as other factors contained in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K (copies of which may be accessed through the Securities and Exchange Commission's website at <http://www.sec.gov>), including those found therein under the captions "Risk Factors" and "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations". In addition to these factors, actual future performance, outcomes, and results may differ materially because of more general factors including (without limitation) general industry and market conditions and growth rates, economic and political conditions, governmental and public policy changes and the impact of natural disasters such as earthquakes and floods. The forward-looking statements included in this press release represent the Company's views as of the date of this press release and these views could change. However, while the Company may elect to update these forward-looking statements at some point in the future, the Company specifically disclaims any obligation to do so. These forward-looking statements should not be relied upon as representing the Company's views as of any date subsequent to the date of this press release.

Red Hat, Red Hat Enterprise Linux, the Shadowman logo, and JBoss are trademarks of Red Hat, Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries. Linux® is the registered trademark of Linus Torvalds in the U.S. and other countries.

Red Hat, Inc.
Daniel Thompson, 978-589-1059
dthompso@redhat.com

Source: Red Hat, Inc.

News Provided by Acquire Media