Orange keeps its mainframe software costs under control with ZETALY Automated Capacity

**Company profile**
Orange is a global B2C and B2B multi-service telco provider offering a wide range of connectivity, content and financial services in a large number of countries. Worldwide, the company also offers its corporate clients support through the process of digital transformation. Orange has 150,000 employees worldwide and generated revenue of €41.4 billion in 2018.

**Background**
At Orange, the mainframe consists of two z14s totalling 751 MSU and manages the production of 35 applications. It currently hosts the customer repository for the Home offerings (ADSL, fiber). This represents millions of customers connected through the Orange’s various sales channels. The mainframe also handles billions of euros in billing.

**Project objectives**
In order to optimize the budget of this infrastructure, in 2019 Orange initiated a cost control project. «Orange’s strategy for

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Stéphane Rousset
Mainframe Manager

the mainframe is to increase the platform's profitability,» says Stéphane Rousset, Mainframe IT Manager. «Our objectives were threefold: control costs, increase flexibility and boost the overall efficiency of the platform.»

In particular, this project is focused on controlling software costs. «To absorb the annual increase in software costs, we used to rely on fixed capping limits, the GCL.» explains Karine Le Boulanger, Systems Engineer. «Every year, we would lower the limit, but this system was no longer viable. By continuing to do so, we were exposing ourselves to performance risks and a reduction in quality for our internal customers.»

The decision to purchase a solution was based on two imperatives. Orange wanted a profitable project with a quick return on investment. They were also looking for an easy-to-use, low-maintenance solution.
Project implementation

In September 2019, Orange opted to begin a Proof Of Concept (POC) with the solution ZETALY Automated Capacity (ZETALY AC) that met both criteria. «As members of Guide Share France, we were able to get feedback from other ZETALY AC customers,» relates Stéphane Rousset. «The high level of satisfaction from existing users convinced us to test the solution.»

With the help of a ZETALY expert, the POC was operational within just 2 days and ran over a one-month period in October. «We appreciated the quality of the POC,» shares Karine Le Boulanger. «Firstly, we were impressed with the ease and speed of the installation. Secondly, we were able to run the product in active mode on one of our z14, under real conditions.»

The positive effects of the product are immediate and measurable. «Even when applying a safety margin, which is necessary for this type of test, we found that we no longer had any batch delays,» recalls Stéphane Rousset. «We used to get bottlenecks sometimes. Currently, capping periods are better managed and smarter.»

After the purchasing process, in January 2020, Orange rolled out the solution on the second z14. After delivering half-day on-site training, the ZETALY team continues to support them through regular communications. «We are delighted by ZETALY’s responsiveness and listening skills,» recounts Karine Le Boulanger.

ZETALY Automated Capacity benefits

Orange is now able to absorb the price increases of its software portfolio for the next 2 years. This cost reduction does not impact performance and even helps the mainframe activity run more smoothly. As a result of these savings, Orange will achieve a return on our investment within a year.

«We have also gained better visibility of production thanks to real-time web reporting,» explains Stéphane Rousset. «We can quickly identify a problem and find a solution. In short, we are more responsive.»

Cost reductions
Enhanced performance
Better visibility

Development opportunities

Orange is currently negotiating with IBM with a view to entering into a Country Multiplex Pricing contract. Thus, the next step will be to activate the CMP mode of ZETALY Automated Capacity. By pooling resources at this level of sysplex, ZETALY AC will further streamline software costs.

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