

LANGS BUILDING SUPPLIES

Empowering IT to eliminate repetitive maintenance and focus on value-creation.

To free its IT team to focus on service development, Langs Building Supplies deployed a hyperconverged infrastructure from Lenovo and Nutanix—cutting the time spent on management tasks from 60% to 10% per day.

Lenovo





Founded in 1976 in Stapylton, Australia, Langs Building Supplies has grown into one of the leading wholesalers of building materials in the state of Queensland. Manufacturing everything roof trusses and wall frames to doors and windows, the company offers whole-of-house solutions for builders across the south-east region.

Matthew Day, CIO at Langs Building Supplies, explains: “The customer experience is at the heart of our value proposition, and our goal is to be the preferred supplier for all our customers. Delivering to our customers on time, every time is crucial to foster long-term loyalty—and our information systems play a key role in enabling efficient operations behind the scenes.”

Like many businesses in its industry, Langs Building Supplies uses ERP solutions to drive core processes such as order management, manufacturing, logistics, and accounting in an integrated, streamlined way. To deliver these information services to its global workforce, the company uses a virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) environment based on VMware Horizon View.

“In the wake of the global financial slowdown in 2008, operational cost-effectiveness became more important than ever, and we decided to defer capital investment in new IT infrastructure,” continues Matthew Day. “As our IT environment aged, our IT team needed to devote increasing amounts of their time to firefighting technical issues. By the time the economy had recovered, the team was spending 60% of the working day on infrastructure maintenance.”



With its IT landscape approaching end-of-life, Langs Building Supplies decided to migrate its mission-critical business systems to a new platform.

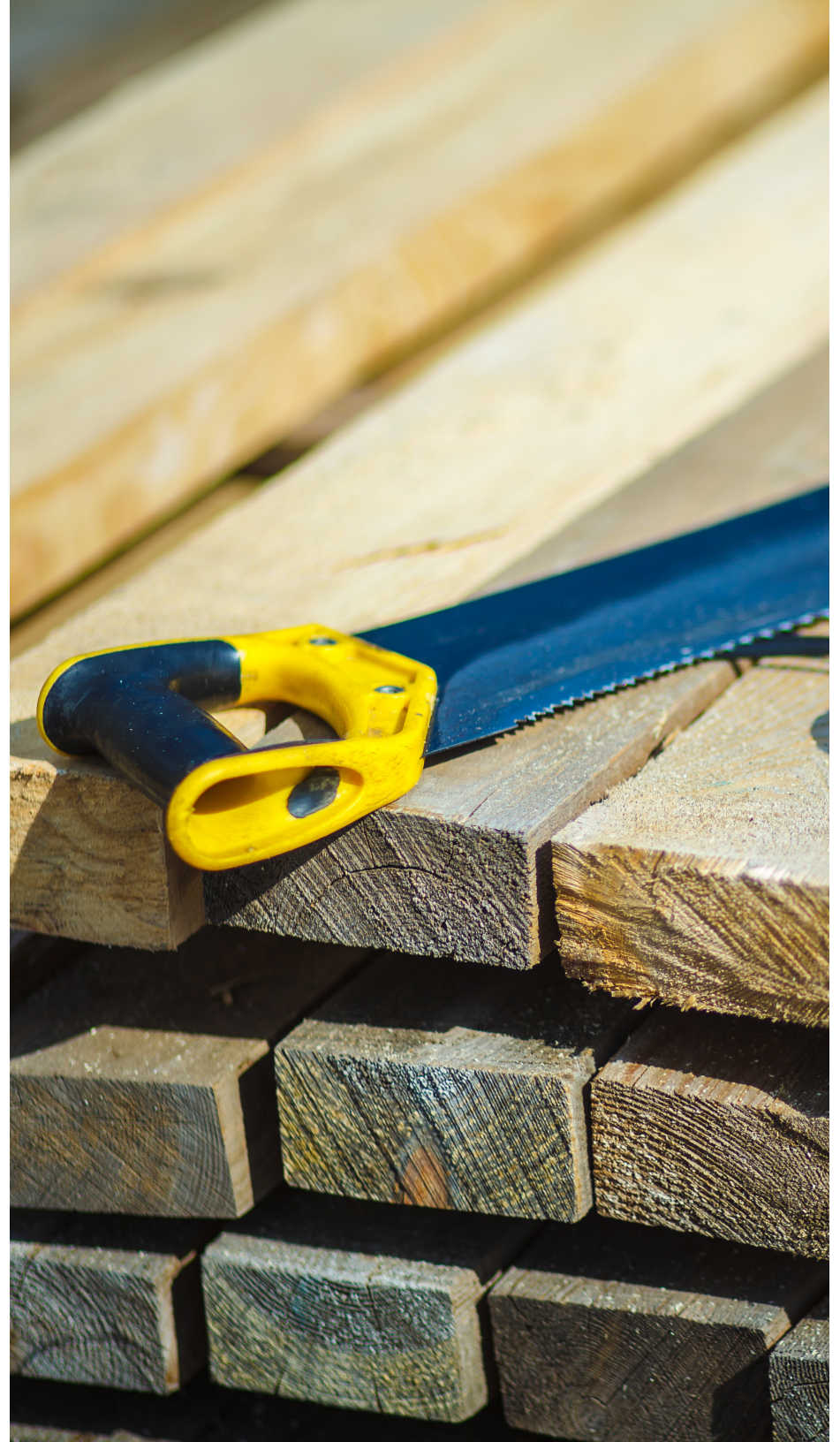
“One of our key objectives for the new platform was decreasing the time our IT team spent on maintenance from 60% to 10%,” recalls Matthew Day. “As well as offering a higher-quality experience for our end users, the aim was to empower our IT team to spend more of their time on value-added activities, such as building new data-driven services for the business.”

To achieve its goal, Langs Building Supplies selected a hyperconverged infrastructure solution from Nutanix.

“We’ve been a Nutanix customer for a long time, and are big fans of their technology and their way of doing business,” says Matthew Day. “When we first started out, Nutanix Enterprise Cloud was only available on Nutanix-branded hardware. But Nutanix isn’t a hardware company; it’s a cloud computing company, and its core focus is software. So when Nutanix joined forces with Lenovo, I was delighted.

“Lenovo is one of the world’s top server vendors and a leader in the x86 space. We made the decision to move from our existing Nutanix hardware to Lenovo appliances because it represented a best-of-breed solution—world-class cloud software from Nutanix and world-class hardware from Lenovo. We see it as a positive that Nutanix is moving away from supplying its own hardware and choosing to work with established vendors like Lenovo, as it means they can focus more time, energy and resources on their chief offering: Nutanix Enterprise Cloud.”

Co-developed by Nutanix and Lenovo, the Lenovo ThinkAgile HX Series platform combines Lenovo servers and Nutanix software to unite compute and storage resources in a single virtual pool—reducing the need for manual maintenance and offering straightforward scalability.



Langs Building Supplies worked with a team from Lenovo Professional Services to install a cluster of eight Lenovo ThinkAgile HX3520-G appliances with Intel® Xeon® Scalable processors.

Matthew Day comments: “One aspect of the ThinkAgile HX Series solution that impressed us the most is its reliability. To deliver to our customers on time, the business depends on 24/7 access to our information systems—and that is exactly what the Lenovo appliances offer us. In fact, we see that Lenovo has one of best reputations for reliability in the entire x86 space, with an average of just 2.1 hours of downtime per server per year.”

By equipping its hyperconverged solution with NVIDIA Tesla M10 GPU accelerators, Langs Building Supplies ensures high levels of performance for its VDI workloads.

“One of Lenovo’s core focus areas is x86 servers, which means we gain access to cutting-edge capabilities faster and at lower cost than we would from the other vendors we evaluated,” adds Matthew Day. “The current generation of Intel processors is only available from Lenovo, and the combination of Intel Xeon Scalable processors and NVIDIA Tesla M10 GPU accelerators delivers outstanding end-user performance for our VMware Horizon View virtual desktops.”

Over a four-day period, Lenovo and Nutanix worked with Langs Building Supplies to migrate its business systems to the Lenovo ThinkAgile appliances without any downtime for its business systems.

“Lenovo and Nutanix rapidly turned the migration plan we sketched out into a blueprint that we could execute,” explains Matthew Day. “Lenovo and Nutanix really took the time to understand what we wanted to achieve, and their attention to detail really impressed us. People say that there’s no such thing as a faultless upgrade, but we did it: nobody in the business noticed the migration, and there was no downtime.”

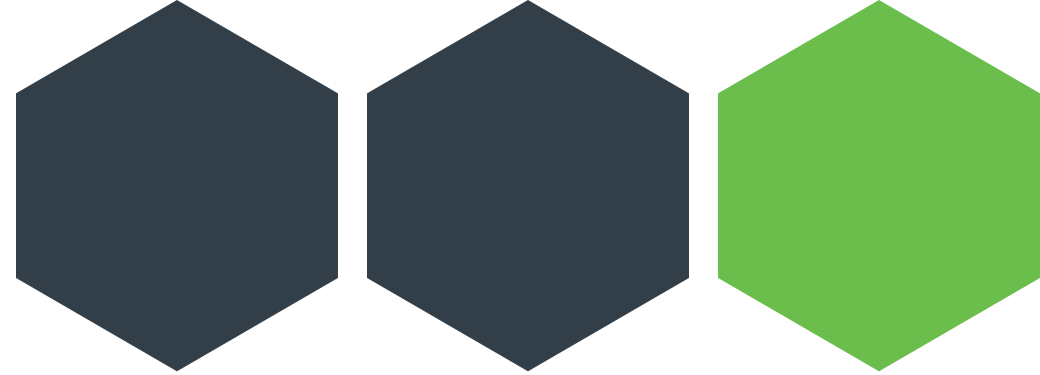


Matthew Day adds: “Lenovo has one of the highest-rated support teams in the entire x86 space, and based on our experience with the migration, we can see why. To Lenovo and Nutanix, we’re not just a number in a spreadsheet—they’ve shown time and again that they’re committed to our success.”

With its mission-critical systems running on a hyperconverged platform from Lenovo and Nutanix, Langs Building Supplies is delivering 24/7 access to its information systems. By freeing its IT team from the burden of time-consuming management and maintenance tasks, the company can devote more time to service innovation.

“The difference between our previous platform and the Lenovo and Nutanix solution is like night and day,” comments Matthew Day. “By using the Lenovo toolset to manage the stack, we can deploy upgrades in a single click and walk away, knowing that when we come back in a couple of hours’ time the process will be complete. We’ve now achieved our goal of reducing management requirements from 60% to just 10% of the IT team’s time—and we see potential to reduce that figure further still in the future.”

Matthew Day concludes: “The hyperconverged solution from Lenovo and Nutanix has been pivotal in transforming our IT department from cost a center into a profit center. We are now empowering our IT team to spend 90% of their time on what really matters: delivering value to our customers.”



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– Matthew Day, CIO, Langs Building Supplies



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