SAS

Answering big questions with powerful big data analytics.

To help its customers turn reams of big data into valuable insight, SAS relies on a rock-solid infrastructure that includes Lenovo servers equipped with Intel® Xeon® Platinum processors, to support its operational systems, and cutting-edge research and development environments.

The world generates around 2.5 quintillion bytes of data every single day, according to some estimates. Big data has the potential to inform and to empower, to answer questions and to solve problems. It has the power to change the world.

But how do you cut through the noise? That's where SAS comes in. SAS has been helping its customers turn data into knowledge for more than 40 years, offering a wide array of data analytics solutions and services.

Tim Campbell, IT Director at SAS, begins: "What sets us apart is our commitment to helping our customers turn their data into actionable insight. We understand their needs and, regardless of industry or sector, help them generate tangible business value from structured and unstructured data."

Sanjay Patel, IT Director at SAS, elaborates: "We support data analytics on everything from prosaic business questions such as optimizing retail supply chain logistics, to life-and-death situations like tracking the spread of infections in hospitals."

As the big data landscape continues to evolve, SAS recognizes the need to stay ahead. Which is why the company invests approximately 25 percent of its annual revenues into R&D.

Campbell comments: "Improving our existing solutions and developing new products are the top priorities for SAS. To support our extensive R&D work, we have thousands of virtualized servers running all kinds of development and testing environments and applications. Needless to say, this requires a huge amount of computing power."

For years now, SAS has depended on Lenovo servers to support these extensive R&D activities.

"The reliability of Lenovo hardware is excellent," says Campbell. "Lenovo servers are robust, so this is a low-touch infrastructure for us. We don't need to allocate lots of resources to maintaining the systems - they just run. And if we ever do encounter any issues, expert support is just a phone call away. We have a great relationship with the Lenovo team, who are often on site to help out with installations and configurations. We feel that Lenovo shares one of our core company values – a passion for providing solutions that work for customers."

He adds: "We're also big fans of Lenovo XClarity – we were actually an early adopter of the tool. It provides a single, easy-to-use interface for managing our entire Lenovo server estate. Being able to monitor and manage everything from one dashboard makes life so much easier."

More recently, as cloud-based services have become increasingly popular, SAS is also hosting an array of analytics and intelligence software-as-a-service solutions on an infrastructure that includes Lenovo servers.

Patel comments: "The analytics solutions that we host for customers are often integrated into their day-to-day operations, so it's crucial that our server infrastructure runs smoothly and reliably at all times. If a server were to go down, potentially hundreds of virtualized environments could be affected, leaving customers unable to access decision-support tools at critical moments. But with Lenovo as a hardware partner, that's not something we worry about."

Equipped with the latest Intel® Xeon® Platinum processors, the Lenovo ThinkSystem servers deliver the high performance levels required to support memory-intensive analytical workloads, as well as the growing areas of machine learning and artificial intelligence.

Campbell remarks: "The Lenovo servers underpinning our extensive VMware environment work well and give us the performance we need to support bleeding-edge research around big data analytics and artificial intelligence – as well as a growing number of cloud customers."

Patel concludes: "By enabling customers to delve deeper into their data, we're helping them do amazing things. We work with banks using our software to detect potential money laundering schemes; with pharmaceutical companies tracking the side effects of new drugs; with law enforcement organizations harnessing data to crack down on crime. Supported by Lenovo, we're helping our customers change the world for the better."

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– Sanjay Patel, IT Director, SAS

Lenovo and Intel together are powering the future of enterprise compute to accelerate customer transformation. From edge and AI to HPC and hybrid cloud, Lenovo innovates quickly to deliver the very latest Intel technologies—compute, networking, memory—at the speed of today's data-centered businesses. Your enterprise can rely on Lenovo and Intel as trusted technology partners to deliver the game-changing solutions of today and tomorrow.

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Solution components

Hardware

Lenovo ThinkSystem SR650 with
   Intel® Xeon® Platinum processors
Lenovo ThinkSystem SR850 with
   Intel® Xeon® Platinum processors
Lenovo System x3650 M5 with
   Intel® Xeon® E5 processor family

Software

Lenovo XClarity
VMware

Services

Lenovo Installation Services

"Supported by Lenovo, we're helping our customers change the world for the better."
—Sanjay Patel, R&D Director, SAS

For SAS to deliver its market-leading data analytics solutions and services, it needs a reliable back-end infrastructure. Today, SAS runs thousands of operational systems and R&D environments on an infrastructure that includes high-performance Lenovo ThinkSystem servers, powered by the latest Intel® Xeon® Platinum processors.