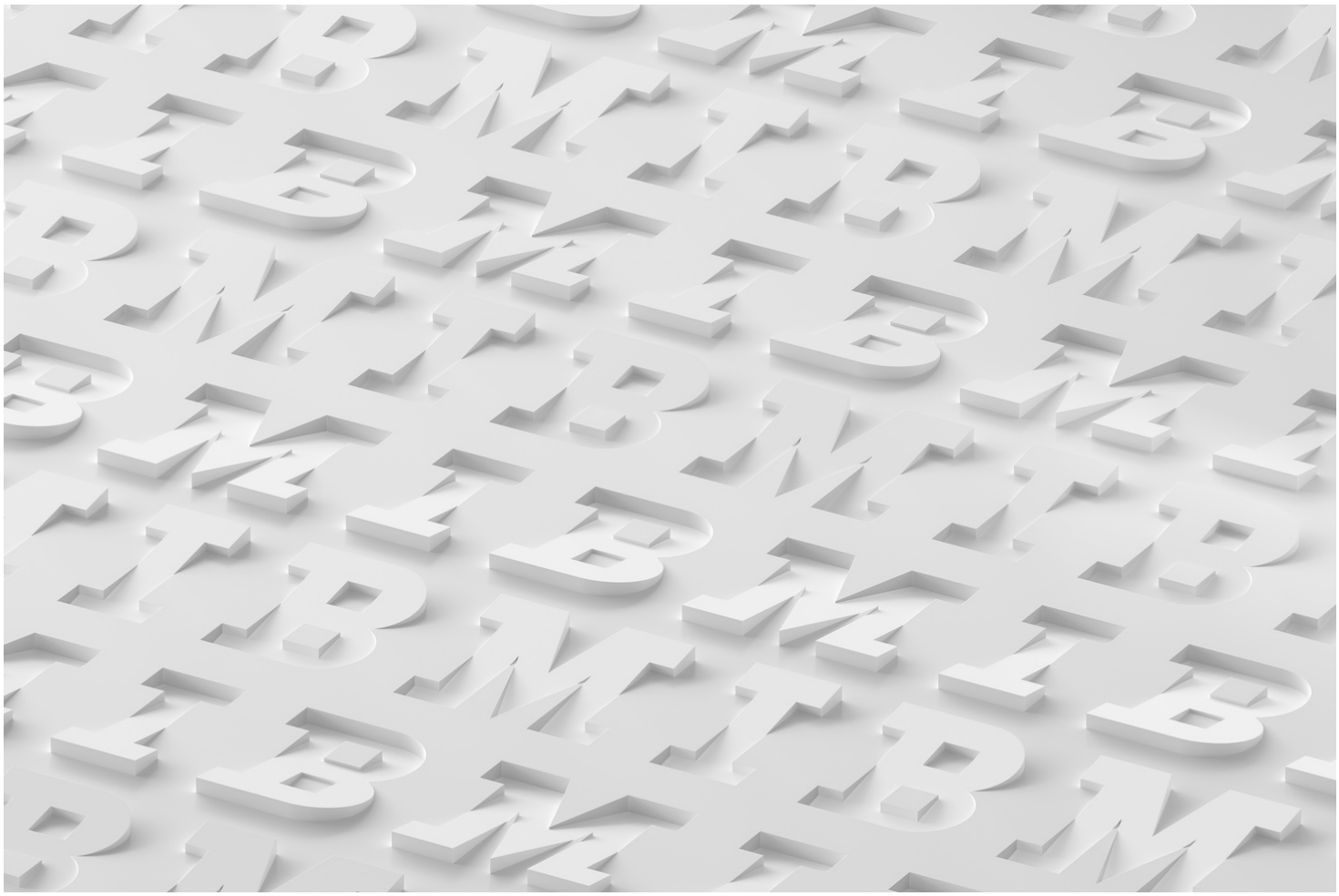
Managing capacity and increasing performance

Sicredi transitions to IBM Power10, seeking a 30% improvement in performance



↓30%

Average core reduction from Power9 to Power10.

↓10-20%

Reduction in CPU Time and DB Time.

↓50%

Reduction in resource competition.

Sicredi is one of Brazil's largest cooperative financial institutions, with over 6 million members and a comprehensive portfolio of products and services. The financial institution places great value in fostering development, offering financial solutions designed to add income and improve the quality of life for its members and society at large. Now present in 22 Brazilian states and Federal District (Brasília), Sicredi remains determined to preserve the institution as a system, respecting the individuality of each member and upholding a transparent management style as its business grows.

Partnering together for more than 20 years, IBM® has assisted Sicredi in maintaining its commitment to its clients. In time many operations have been put into place to ensure the security of Sicredi's core banking growing on the IBM® Power® platform. Instituting a three-year upgrade cycle, Sicredi has continued seeking improved response times and limiting unnecessary pressures caused by slow workloads. Refreshing its infrastructure from Power8® to Power9® back in 2019, Sicredi saw a CPU reduction of around 31.5% and experienced a 23% throughput improvement overall. With the introduction of the Power10 portfolio in 2022, the financial institution decided to undergo another refresh, replacing its IBM Power9 hardware with IBM Power10.

Solution

Sicredi has relied on IBM Power to run its core banking applications for many years and explored the latest generation of IBM Power servers to support its continuing expansion efforts. Spending two weeks on-site in Montpellier, the IBM team conducted capacity planning, benchmarking future growth projections, and testing the new Oracle 19c Environment with AIX 7.1 on IBM Power10. Sicredi implemented four IBM Power E1080 servers within its two data centers. Progressively modernizing its infrastructure management and monitoring capabilities, Sicredi deployed several scale-out IBM Power S1022 servers with IBM Power S1024 processors and IBM Power Virtual Server to create capacity for additional workloads.

Along with Power, the client operates on-prem with x86 infrastructure supplied by Dell and off-prem with AWS to run its SAP and Ubuntu Private Cloud. In addition to the core banking refresh, IBM explored running Sicredi's Ubuntu OpenStack and Red Hat® OpenShift® environments on the newly adopted Power10 platform. Emphasizing Power10 and AIX security and availability features to counter AWS, Sicredi has a path to test Ubuntu Private Cloud and Red Hat OpenShift on-prem with the new Power hardware.

Providing end-to-end support and tuning, the IBM team proactively engaged a Red Hat OpenShift Power Principal Engineer to determine the best configuration and licenses. Providing additional assistance, the IBM Business Partner Infodive provided supporting services to ensure a smooth and seamless transition. Taking a phased approach to migrating the LPARs and VMs to IBM Power10, the IBM Technology Services team has since instilled confidence in a successful post-sales migration to IBM Power10.

Benefits

Continuing the systematic approach to refreshing the client's infrastructure has allowed Sicredi to remain competitive in its industry and easily support its growing workload. Choosing Power for its vertical scalability, high processing capacity, and resilience, the client is continuing with IBM Power10. Utilizing the latest Oracle 19c environment on IBM Power10 will enhance the client's banking operations' reliability, availability, and overall performance. Spending time in Montpellier testing on IBM Power10 demonstrated a 30% overall performance improvement and a 25% reduction in batch processing times. In transition, the client has since freed up licenses to support the growth of its core banking environment for years to come. The new S1022s provide an on-prem option with higher security, and the results thus far have exceeded the client's expectations. The migration to Power10 was the client's first ever migration without service interruption.

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