

RAVInvest

SoftLayer technology powers innovative trade and learning platforms for entrepreneurs in Africa

Overview

The need

To offer sales and peer-to-peer learning tools to entrepreneurs in rural Africa, RAVInvest needed a scalable, reliable hosting platform and support from an experienced IT solution provider.

The solution

IBM Premier Business Partner WebGate Consulting AG developed peer learning and sales applications based on RAVI's requirements, provisioning robust SoftLayer® infrastructure to host the offerings.

The benefit

RAVI introduced an innovative new infrastructure for trade and peer exchange in rural Africa, extending tools to entrepreneurs in remote areas with a SoftLayer delivery platform designed for scalability and dependability.

Launched by founders with a diverse range of expertise in agriculture, entrepreneurship and rural development, RAVInvest helps build business ventures in rural Africa. A pioneer in creating learning exchange mechanisms among rural entrepreneurs, the organization strives to develop business opportunities supporting sustained profitability, ecological stability and social equitability.

Envisioning new trade and learning platforms

To support rural African business development, RAVI envisioned mobile applications designed for peer-to-peer learning and secure sales transactions. As a small venture with limited technical resources, the organization needed an innovative IT solution provider to develop the software. Plus, to extend the applications to African entrepreneurs in remote areas, RAVI required highly reliable and available hosting infrastructure. "We needed to be able to just tell a technical partner what we wanted and have that partner get it done," says RAVI director Ueli Scheuermeier.

RAVInvest required a high-performance cloud hosting platform to successfully extend new sales and learning tools to entrepreneurs in remote rural areas throughout Africa. "SoftLayer makes this possible. RAVI is reaching way down to the countryside in East Africa, and the reliable SoftLayer hosting platform is key," says WebGate Consulting AG project manager Martin Muheim.



Launching in a SoftLayer cloud environment

IBM Premier Business Partner WebGate Consulting AG developed Linked Local Learners, a peer exchange learning platform, and Transaction Security Services, an application for efficient, trustworthy sales transactions. After evaluating leading cloud solutions, WebGate provisioned virtual servers in the SoftLayer Amsterdam data center to host the offerings. “Amazon and Google didn’t give us what we needed,” says WebGate project manager Martin Muheim. “SoftLayer is a very reliable platform that makes it possible for us to maintain lower delivery costs.”

Powering entrepreneurship in rural Africa

By teaming with WebGate to develop and launch its entrepreneurial applications in a robust SoftLayer cloud hosting environment, RAVI successfully introduced an innovative new infrastructure for trade and information sharing in rural Africa. “We’re offering a control mechanism that allows people to trust one another and a community space that enables entrepreneurs to learn from one another and make things happen,” says Scheuermeier. “These are really pioneering, cutting-edge solutions.”

Designed for scalability and reliability, the SoftLayer cloud infrastructure provides the delivery platform required to extend the applications to users in remote locales. “SoftLayer makes this possible,” says Muheim. “RAVI is reaching way down to the countryside in East Africa, and the reliable SoftLayer hosting platform is key.”

Solution components

Services

- SoftLayer®

IBM Premier Business Partner

- WebGate Consulting AG

For more information

To learn more about IBM Cloud computing solutions, please contact your IBM marketing representative or IBM Business Partner, or visit the following website: ibm.com/cloud-computing



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Produced in the United States of America
September 2015

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