



### Business challenge

Stonetales Properties acquired a competitor that was running its applications on Microsoft Windows-based x86 hardware. It needed to migrate those applications to IBM® i and upgrade its older hardware to prepare for growth within its real estate portfolio.

### Transformation

Stonetales is involved in real estate and cohousing sales and management. After acquiring a competitor, the company needed to upgrade and centralize its IT infrastructure to scale up quickly. Stonetales worked with IBM Business Partner CD Invest to upgrade to an IBM Power® Systems S924 server running the IBM i operating system (OS) in the cloud.

## Results

### Grows 122%

from 90 to 200 buildings within its real estate portfolio

### Consolidates 67%

from 3 systems to 1 central POWER9™ system

### Centralizes data

to give employees access from anywhere

# Stonetales Properties

## Upgrading and centralizing on the cloud to scale up

Stonetales is a real estate company involved in housing marketing, cohousing and sales of properties. The company is committed to quality and personalized service for its customers and property owners. It has over 200 unique buildings in its portfolio. Stonetales is located in Knokke-Heist, Belgium.

*“Thanks to CD Invest, we had a smooth migration of three systems to one central system.”*

—Jeroen Decorte, IT Director, Stonetales Properties

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## Scaling Up After an Acquisition

Stonetales is a real estate company specializing in property management. It has over 200 apartment and cohousing buildings in its portfolio. The company must make sure all real estate is accounted for and in compliance with various regulations. It must address any issue with a property quickly and accurately to maintain its high level of customer service.

Recently, Stonetales made a key growth move by acquiring a close competitor. This immediately grew its real estate portfolio of 90 buildings to over 200. Stonetales knew that an IT transformation was necessary to handle the increased workloads and data and to integrate additional business applications. The company began to look at its IT infrastructure landscape to see what needed to be done.

The competitor it acquired was running its business applications on Windows-based x86 servers. Stonetales knew this would be an issue as it started in on the merger process. It needed to be able to integrate and consolidate the acquired company's business applications with its own environment on Power Systems servers and the i OS.

Stonetales also knew that it needed to upgrade its infrastructure to improve performance and scalability to handle the additional workloads after the acquisition. The company sought a centralized cloud solution to give its employees the ability to access data from remotely and on demand to stay productive and address any issues quickly to remain in compliance. This transformation needed to happen quickly after the acquisition.

## Upgrading and centralizing on the cloud

Stonetales started working with IBM Business Partner CD Invest and its owner and a IBM Champion for Power Systems, Koen Decorte, to plan the upgrade and consolidation of its IT infrastructure after the acquisition. The company migrated the acquired company's business applications and upgraded its own environment to Power Systems S924 servers running IBM i in a cloud hosted by CD Invest. The centralized cloud environment gives its employees the ability to access key data needed to complete jobs at remote property sites. It also saves its IT team from having to manage multiple systems that aren't integrated.

The migration was fast and smooth, and only took a month to complete with no downtime whatsoever.

"Thanks to CD Invest, we had a smooth migration of three systems to just one central system," says Jeroen Decorte, IT Director at Stonetales. CD Invest provided the needed support throughout the transformation process. The new integrated IBM i and POWER9 environment is more straightforward to manage, as basic IT tasks are automated and streamlined.

CD Invest also helped Stonetales build additional new applications on IBM i to improve its customer service and streamline processes for its property owners. CD Invest created unique user IDs for every property owner and an online portal for them to be able to log in to see legal documents and job statuses for their buildings. Previously, there was no such application that allowed property owners to do this. CD Invest build these new applications using Free Format RPG and open source languages like Node.js on IBM i.

Because of the consolidation to a centralized IBM i on POWER9 environment, Stonetales was also able to integrate job numbering into a single application. This gives the company the ability to link individual job statuses back to the application, meaning that property owners can quickly view them within an email. The new application and emails are linked to each other, which greatly streamlines multiple tasks for both employees and property owners.

## Improved data access and productivity

Stonetales now has a centralized IT environment that simplifies and improves productivity for its employees. Employees can now access data from anywhere to see the status of a job or a building issue and take care of it quickly. Before the consolidation, team members needed to be in the office to access key business data, which inhibited productivity and the fast and accurate resolution of critical issues. "Because of our new centralized solution, we can access our key business data very easily," Decorte says.

Before, with the company's old infrastructure and systems, it was very difficult to see the status of a job at a particular building. Now with IBM i on Power Systems S924 in the cloud, it takes fewer employees to view the status and issues happening in each building within its real estate portfolio, meaning that Stonetales can re-prioritize its team to handle the additional properties brought on by the acquisition without having to hire more staff. This saves the company major costs and has increased productivity dramatically. Stonetales also no longer has to do manual backups of its environment, saving its IT team valuable time each day.

Previously, it was difficult for property owners to access documents and other critical information about their properties—they had to make a manual request to Stonetales to search its system. Now, with the new applications built by CD Invest, property owners can seamlessly log in from any device with their unique user ID to view all legal documents and jobs associated with their properties. This transformation has drastically improved customer service and satisfaction among property owners.

Property owners also appreciate the ability to receive email notifications about jobs at their properties and quickly link to status and information about those jobs directly from the email. This saves property owners time by being able to see job statuses on the go from their mobile devices. The migration away from Microsoft Windows and upgrade to IBM i on Power Systems S924 has proven to both transform the way employees and property owners alike access the information they need from anywhere, improving satisfaction and loyalty to Stonetales across the board. The company is looking forward to continuing to grow and scale up with IBM i and POWER9.

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—Jeroen Decorte, IT Director,  
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## Solution components

- IBM® Power® Systems S924
- IBM Power Systems running IBM i

### Take the next step

To learn more about IBM Power Systems S924, please contact your IBM representative or IBM Business Partner, or visit <https://www.ibm.com/us-en/marketplace/power-system-s924>

To learn more about IBM i, please contact your IBM representative or IBM Business Partner, or visit <https://www.ibm.com/it-infrastructure/power/os/ibm-i>

CD Invest delivers ICT and business consultancy services to help maximize its clients' business potential. For more information, visit [cdinvest.be](http://cdinvest.be)

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