Crédit Agricole Group Infrastructure Platform (CA-GIP) scales automation with Red Hat
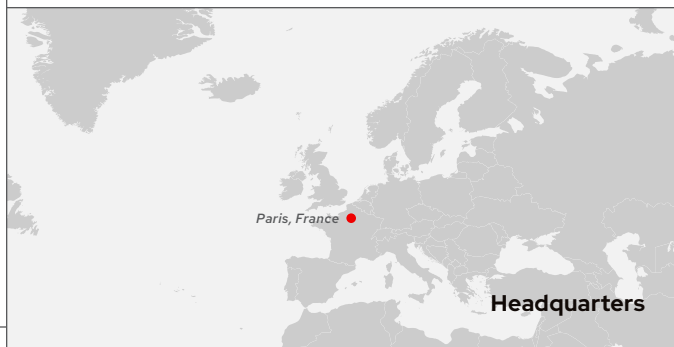
GROUP INFRASTRUCTURE PLATFORM

Crédit Agricole Group Infrastructure Platform (CA-GIP) provides IT infrastructure services and production support for the group's insurance, corporate banking, and investment banking businesses. To scale automation across tens of thousands of servers, CA-GIP replaced its community automation solution with Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform. In just one year, the group has achieved return on investment (ROI), including automating operations across 20,000 Linux servers in the equivalent of one employee's work hours. CA-GIP now has a stable, supported foundation for an automation-centric approach to development and integration to solve current and future business challenges.

Software and services

Red Hat Ansible®
Automation Platform

Red Hat Consulting

Existing
Red Hat software

Red Hat OpenShift®

Red Hat Satellite

Red Hat Enterprise Linux®

Paris, France ●

Headquarters

Financial services

More than **4,000** employees

Benefits

▶ Achieved return on investment (ROI) in just one year

▶ Automated operations for 20,000 Linux servers in the equivalent of one employee's work hours

▶ Simplified adoption of new automation capabilities

▶ Improved infrastructure security with a central automation approach

"The project was complex, and any mistakes would have been costly. If we were going to invest in a new approach, we needed to ensure our teams were given the right knowledge and skills to support it. Red Hat Consulting was a great partner in our learning."

Pierre-François Liozon
Unix Team Head, Crédit Agricole Group Infrastructure Platform (CA-GIP)

> "Red Hat offered us a path to our future goal of providing a seamless experience to all of the Crédit Agricole Group's DevOps teams through a single technical solution."

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Pierre-François Liozon
Unix Team Head, Crédit Agricole Group Infrastructure Platform (CA-GIP)

Improving operational efficiency with an automation-centric approach

Founded in 1894, Crédit Agricole Group is the largest cooperative financial institution and tenth largest bank in the world. The bank established the Infrastructure Platform team (CA-GIP) in 2019 to manage its IT infrastructure and technology and services operations for its insurance, corporate banking, and investment banking services.

As demand for digital financial services rapidly increased, CA-GIP sought to improve the group's operational efficiency to keep pace. The group decided to replace its community Ansible solution with cost-effective technology that could integrate a variety of systems for current and future business needs. Additionally, CA-GIP sought to support reuse of established scripts as commands or application programming interfaces (APIs) to save time on repetitive automation management tasks and reduce risk of human error.

"We realized we needed enterprise technology that could support a cultural shift to an automation-centric approach for our DevOps teams," said Pierre-François Liozon, Unix Team Head, Crédit Agricole Group Infrastructure Platform (CA-GIP). "In addition to lower costs and better reusability, we also needed a vendor-agnostic solution that avoided regression of around 150 proprietary scripts."

Adopting stable, supported enterprise automation technology from Red Hat

Based on its successful past adoption of Red Hat platform technology, CA-GIP decided to adopt Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform to manage infrastructure provisioning, configuration, and patching.

Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform is an agentless solution for managing complex deployments and repetitive tasks across enterprise environments of any scale. Ansible's simple YAML language, in the form of Ansible Playbooks, lets teams across an organization share, vet, and manage automation content. In the first phase of CA-GIP's deployment, Ansible Automation Platform was used to automate processes across more than 20,000 Linux servers.

Although it had already applied automation to support a variety of business needs, CA-GIP engaged Red Hat Consulting to work with the group's senior engineering staff and help its teams quickly build related skills.

"The collaboration between our teams was a key success factor," said Liozon. "The project was complex, and any mistakes would have been costly. If we were going to invest in a new approach, we needed to ensure our teams were given the right knowledge and skills to support it. Red Hat Consulting was a great partner in our learning."

Investing in operational efficiency across teams

▸ Achieved return on investment (ROI) in just one year

▸ Significantly reduced automation effort and resources, achieving automated operations for 20,000 Linux servers in the equivalent of one employee's work hours

▸ Simplified adoption of new automation capabilities with Red Hat OpenShift operators, modular software for packaging, deploying, and managing Kubernetes-native applications

▸ Improved infrastructure security with supported enterprise technology and a central automation approach across DevOps teams

▸ Improved talent management with less need for proprietary specialists

Planning a path to an improved IT experience

After its initial success with its enhanced, automation-centric DevOps approach, CA-GIP plans to expand its Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform to a total of 45,000 Linux and Microsoft Windows servers.

"Red Hat offered us a path to our future goal of providing a seamless experience to all of CA-GIP's DevOps teams through a single technical solution," said Liozon.

About Crédit Agricole Group

Founded in 1894 to enable French farmers to obtain long-term, flexible, and reasonably priced credit, Crédit Agricole Group is now the world's largest cooperative financial institution, France's second-largest bank, and the tenth-largest bank in the world. Crédit Agricole Group Infrastructure Platform handles IT infrastructure and production activities for the bank's insurance, corporate and investment banking, and technology and services operations. In total, CA-GIP has over 4,000 staff, including 1,600 based at 17 locations in France.

About Red Hat Innovators in the Open

Innovation is the core of open source. Red Hat customers use open source technologies to change not only their own organizations, but also entire industries and markets. Red Hat Innovators in the Open proudly showcases how our customers use enterprise open source solutions to solve their toughest business challenges. Want to share your story? Learn more.

About Red Hat

Red Hat is the world's leading provider of enterprise open source software solutions, using a community-powered approach to deliver reliable and high-performing Linux, hybrid cloud, container, and Kubernetes technologies. Red Hat helps customers develop cloud-native applications, integrate existing and new IT applications, and automate and manage complex environments. A trusted adviser to the Fortune 500, Red Hat provides award-winning support, training, and consulting services that bring the benefits of open innovation to any industry. Red Hat is a connective hub in a global network of enterprises, partners, and communities, helping organizations grow, transform, and prepare for the digital future.

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