IBM

Finding efficiency in simplicity

Drive innovation by reducing the
x86 server sprawl and consolidate
on IBM Power with IBM i

by IBM Power®
5-minute read

Technology should make people's lives easier, not more complicated. And yet it's all too easy for companies to wind up with complex IT environments that are difficult and costly to manage. Businesses should not have to choose between innovation and a simple life—and with the right solutions and expertise, they don't have to.

Enter smeup, an Italian technology specialist that provides dynamic software and infrastructure solutions tailored to its customers' needs. The company recognized a familiar pattern at many of its clients.

Mauro Sanfilippo, Chief Technology Officer at smeup, explains, "To run new applications, it's common for businesses to introduce a tangle of different operating systems, hosted by various physical and virtual machines, deployed on-premises or in the cloud. Before they know it, IT complexity and costs escalate, and they end up facing barriers to agility."

Many of smeup's customers rely on IBM® Power® running the IBM i operating system to support the software that forms the backbone of their businesses. smeup saw an opportunity to help these companies achieve significant benefits by consolidating applications to the IBM Power platform.

"People do not realize that IBM i on Power can be a platform for modernization," says Sanfilippo. "We wanted to help customers extend the advantages of IBM i—which include high availability, security and openness—to new parts of their IT environment. At the same time, by streamlining their infrastructure, we could unlock significant efficiencies. The challenge was changing the perceptions of IBM Power running IBM i by demonstrating how it can drive innovation."

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Facilitates
innovation
by enabling
customers to
explore

new

technologies such as AI

Leading the IBM i revolution

smeup is now helping customers launch their digital transformations using the IBM Power running IBM i platform. The company developed a low-risk consolidation approach to move workloads to IBM Power without significant reconfiguration.

"We've started helping customers consolidate their application layer from x86 to IBM i on Power," comments Sanfilippo. "As a result, they can eliminate huge numbers of Windows and Linux servers. We're developing a full suite of tools and expertise for both ISVs [independent software vendors] and other customers to use IBM i as their platform of choice for a wider range of applications than ever before."

smeup also teamed up with H2O.ai to explore augmenting IBM i applications with artificial intelligence (AI) capabilities.

The company's customers can now install one of smeup's upper process program (UPP) solutions to introduce AI with minimal disruption and learning curve.

"IBM connected us with H2O.ai and even gave us access to IBM Power servers so we could experiment with training AI models," recalls Sanfilippo. "Now, using our newly developed UPP, companies can infuse their IBM i applications with AI without worrying about the complexity of interacting with the third-party AI tool."

He continues, "There's no need to learn new languages or techniques; instead customers just have to feed the AI model with data and start enjoying the benefits. They have the choice between running an AI model from H2O.ai within UPP on IBM i or we can provide a REST API within the UPP that connects to an AI model in the cloud."

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Mauro Sanfilippo, Chief Technology Officer, smeup

Ushering in a new modernization era

By helping companies to modernize their application landscapes using IBM Power and IBM i, smeup delivers a compelling business case. Customers that take advantage of the new offering can increase efficiency and extend the advantages of IBM Power across their IT environment.

"Customers that work with smeup to consolidate applications to IBM Power running IBM i can centralize management and licensing," says Sanfilippo. "They gain greater control and visibility of their IT environment, helping them to increase stability and reducing the need for specialized skills. All this saves substantial amounts of time and money, benefitting the company's bottom line."

Moreover, smeup is helping customers use IBM i on IBM Power to facilitate innovation, whether by exploring new use cases such as AI or augmenting their capabilities in other ways.

Sanfilippo concludes, "smeup is excited to be part of the story of modernizing with IBM i and IBM Power. We're demonstrating how it can be the foundation for a highly competitive technology strategy that encompasses AI, hybrid cloud and more."

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About smeup

smeup specializes in using digitalization to convert company data into value for businesses. From 14 locations in Italy, smeup serves 2,450 customers around the world with solutions including enterprise resource planning, human resources, document management and design software, infrastructure, cloud and security, application development, and more.

Solution components

- IBM® Power®
- IBM i