

A WESTPOLE Success Story with CIRB.Brussels

ABOUT THE CUSTOMER






The CIRB (or BRIC - Brussels Regional Informatics Centre) is the trusted ICT partner in the Brussels-Capital Region that can be entrusted with any development or support tasks involving computers, telematics, and cartography for the regional public institutions, ministries, and public interest organizations of the region.

“The CIRB offers a wide range of services, from the development of applications, with around 350 staff members on assignment, to the management of data centers,” explains Pascal Van Caldenborgh, Technical Domain Owner Unix platforms, virtualization, storage & Datacenter, CIRB. “The center has been operating since the 90s and has built an excellent reputation in the market. And the organization is still growing. In fact, recruitment is exploding. This is also due to the accelerated development of IT, particularly new forms of hosting, not to mention the paradigm shift introduced by the cloud...”

ABOUT THE ACTIVITIES

In deploying its expertise, the CIRB acts in a support role to the Ministry responsible for Information Technology and the Digital Transition, making an ongoing contribution to the development of policy, particularly thanks to:

-  Its authority concerning the digital transition of public institutions and the evolution of their working methods
-  Its campaign for the popularization of the new information and communication technologies (ICT)
-  Its in-depth knowledge, its constant and vigilant monitoring of ICT developments, including with regard to other federated entities and the European Union



ABOUT THE ROLE OF CIRB

The CIRB's role most notably includes:

- ✎ Drawing up master plans, audits, advice and support for procurement
- ✎ Training personnel in computing and telematics, as well as support in those areas
- ✎ Inventory of the computing and telematics resources used by the local authorities
Execution and monitoring of IT, telematics, cartography, and telecommunications projects
- ✎ Management, development, promotion, and distribution of the mapping
- ✎ Providing information about changes in the computer technologies that are useful for the development of the region

Finally, the CIRB is qualified to manage research, development, demonstration, and dissemination programs and to participate in them with a view to building up general expertise in order to serve its target audiences.

ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP: CIRB & WESTPOLE

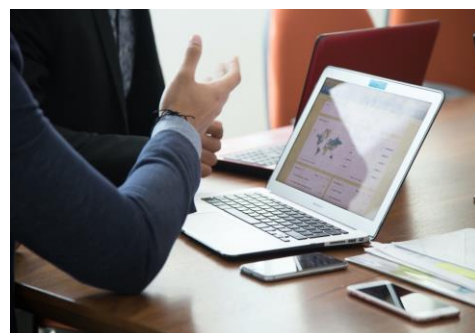
Historically, WESTPOLE gained its reputation by supplying - in the context of government contracts - IBM SVC, Storwize (storage), and IBM POWER (server) equipment; WESTPOLE has also supplied, via consultants, the skills required to optimize the use of those infrastructure elements. WESTPOLE then extended its provision via associated services such as monitoring, management of databases, virtualized server environments, and the help desk.

Today, building on a trusting relationship that has only strengthened over time, WESTPOLE accompanies the CIRB through various phases of its growth. "Based on the principle that there is strength in numbers, we work hand in hand for the benefit of our clients," says Duc Phan, Infrastructure Architect, CIRB.

"This culture is shared by WESTPOLE and is based on an exchange of skills and experiences. Because technology advances so quickly, and because our clients are all involved in digital transformation programs, we think that this connection has become absolutely vital in order to move forward."



DUC PHAN, INFRASTRUCTURE ARCHITECT, CIRB





PASCAL VAN CALDENBORGH,

TECHNICAL DOMAIN OWNER UNIX PLATFORMS,
VIRTUALISATION, STORAGE & DATA CENTRE, CIRB

CUSTOMER'S KEY WORDS

Built up over time, the partnership with WESTPOLE has gone from strength to strength. "Technological innovation is a part of our mission," adds Pascal Van Caldenborgh. "When a challenge arises, the CIRB knows who to count on! We are now refining our road maps together, based on the premise that our clients, and through them the end users, will be the main beneficiaries. After all, that is the goal of public service."

In this context, CIRB's clients receive the full benefit of all the resources of WESTPOLE. So, for example, they can participate in WESTPOLE Study Tours, regular prospecting events where market consultancy specialists provide guidance to clients.

In this one-of-a-kind partnership, the CIRB and WESTPOLE are examining the possibility of defining joint service offerings.

The idea would be to unite their common areas of expertise, experience, and resources, for the greater benefit of clients.

**Contact us if you want to receive more information
about our services.**

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SAVINGS AND GREATER SECURITY

Gatsby & White have noticed that cloud computing facilitates collaborative work. When colleagues work in teams, they need to be able to update their work documents easily.

Collaborative tools available in cloud mode, such as Office 365, allow users to avoid generating several versions of the same file, which would then require them all to share the various modifications. Team members can also work on the same document at the same time, even when they are not in the same place. The financial aspect was obviously analysed very closely. Gatsby & White quickly realised the advantages of complete externalisation via the cloud. The cloud implies a transfer of the economic model. It allowed us to reduce our capital expenditure (CAPEX) in favour of a modular fixed sum that can be forecast over time, combined with many options included in the operating expenses (OPEX). The capacities subscribed within the framework of a subscription are upwardly adjustable in real time to cope with seasonal peaks of activity; they are also downwardly adjustable. "Our whole business is based on data, so the integrity and security of that data is fundamental for us," says Michiel Van der Biest. "The solution offered by WESTPOLE guarantees the confidentiality, integrity, availability, and traceability of the data. What's more, WESTPOLE is certified as a PSF (Financial Services Professional) by the CSSF (Luxembourg's financial regulator). This status is a guarantee of quality and, to our clients, it's a mark of credibility. Companies that have this certification enjoy a clear competitive advantage. Ultimately, it's our clients who benefit!"



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