Belfius and IBM collaborate to accelerate modernization path and improve protection against cyber threats

IBM (NYSE:IBM) and Belfius, a leading Belgian banking and insurance group, today announced they have signed a new 5-year infrastructure and security services agreement to accelerate its modernization path to support the hybrid platforms strategy of the group, deliver reinforced protection against cyber threats, and be ready for European DORA legislation. Through this new collaboration, the bank will be able to work more efficiently, will have more control over its core IT systems and will be better equipped to strengthen its security.

Enterprise-scale data protection with AI

As part of their modernization, Belfius is implementing IBM z16, a securable, agile and highly available platform for mission-critical workloads. Next to higher availability, performance and cost efficiency, the IBM z16 offers the possibility to bring AI and cyber resiliency to the hybrid environment to speed insights and help protect data against future threats. In addition, Belfius uses IBM Storage Suite to enable comprehensive data resiliency for physical file servers, virtual environments and a wide range of applications, with built-in data efficiency.

Bart Windal, IBM General Manager, IBM Belgium & Luxembourg: *"This collaboration reconfirms IBM as a key partner during Belfius' IT Modernization, to help them optimize their processes, business growth, as well as accelerate innovation in a secure environment for their customers. We are delighted to work together to drive the transformation of a key industry in our country".*

Security as a business priority

Today, as companies innovate using cloud, AI and digital ecosystems, they are challenged by security identities, data and workloads across the hybrid cloud. Organizations need to make security core to their transformation agendas – and do it early versus an afterthought – to reduce risk, establish cyber resiliency and propel business growth. In this context, IBM Consulting will be delivering Cyber Threat Management Services, in addition to some specific Cyber Strategy and Risk Services and Cyber Trust Services to support the safeguarding of Belfius' digital assets and data.

Benoît Sepulchre, Head of IT Infrastructure, Cloud and Digital Security, Belfius: *"We are very happy with this new collaboration with IBM. First, the IBM z16 keeps a central place in our hybrid platforms strategy: it ensures an optimal resiliency of our main core banking services combined with a lot of new possibilities for innovation. Second, the cyber threat is evolving day after day: thanks to the Cyber Threat Management Services of IBM, we make sure that we can quickly adapt to the cyber threat evolution, based on the IBM monitoring and X-Force Threat Intelligence Insights capabilities."*

Belfius

Tim Van den heede, IBM Vice-President Global Security Services Sales states, "With the IBM European Security Operating Center (SOC), Belfius benefits from the visibility delivered by our global SOC network while being ensured that their data remains within the European digital space. The IBM SOC, *leveraging technology, skilled security professionals and a services platform infused with AI, will provide round-the-clock surveillance to proactively detect, investigate and respond to security incidents at speed. In the event of a cyberattack, The IBM X-Force Incident Response team will help mitigate the impact, contain the incident, and restore normal operations.*"

Other services that IBM Consulting provides to Belfius includes Governance Risk and Compliance Management Services and administration support for their Information Security Management System; IBM X-Force Incident Response team services to help Belfius with security incident response and cyberattack preventative processes; Managed Endpoint Detection and Response that is also leveraged to deliver threat hunting services; and additional IBM Identity and Access Management Services, among others.

With modernized infrastructure and storage, as well as IBM Security solutions and services, Belfius will be able to establish and maintain a robust framework to manage risks, ensure compliance and protect sensitive information, in compliance with industry regulations and standards.

To know more about cybersecurity services, please visit: https://www.ibm.com/services/security

Contact

Belfius Bank & Insurance
Ulrike Pommee, + 32 (0)2 222 02 57 / ulrike.pommee@belfius.be - press@belfius.be
www.belfius.be

IBM
Heleen Kamerman, +31 6 53 37 10 89/ Heleen.Kamerman@nl.ibm.com
www.ibm.com

Belfius