



Computer Merchants and Runge Limited build an infrastructure for global growth.

Runge Limited was established in 1977 by Dr Ian Runge and listed on the Australian Securities Exchange on 27 May 2008 (ASX: RUL). Runge Limited is a leader in the provision of Advisory/Consulting, Technology and Professional Development services to the global mining industry, delivering solutions across a range of commodities and mining disciplines. With global expertise, Runge Limited's approach to the business of mining is strongly grounded in economic principles, delivering mine planning solutions coupled with technological support and training. Runge Limited operates offices in 21 locations across 12 countries on five continents.

THE BUSINESS PROBLEM

Runge Limited's IT infrastructure had evolved piecemeal over time, and needed overhauling in order to support the business now and throughout the coming years. With a strategic programme of acquisitions planned, Runge Limited's ITS Manager Dr Steve Carroll knew he needed to have systems in place to provide:

- High availability, 24/7/365 operations
- A stable platform in which to integrate further systems and processes required as a result of acquiring and integrating other companies.

Dr Carroll had worked previously with Computer Merchants, and liked their approach in understanding requirements and fully partnering with their clients. "I knew that Computer Merchants was a good fit with how we needed to work to set up a flexible and robust infrastructure, and that they would be with us for the long haul," he said. "They could provide us with a global solution and certainty of support for many years to come."

THE SOLUTION

Computer Merchants worked with Runge Limited to define a strategy to meet Runge Limited's business roadmap. The technical solution was built around IBM Blade and SAN solutions for both the Brisbane head office and the Sydney disaster recovery centre.

The design incorporated a global WAN, and IBM servers for regional and remote offices. The standard infrastructure offers cost savings in procurement and ongoing support, and simplifies remote support for IT staff in the Brisbane office troubleshooting issues at remote offices.

Technical specifications: 3 x IBM Blade Centre H populated with IBM HS21 Blades, 2 x IBM DS 4700 with Expansion Units, 1 x IBM TS3200 Tape Library, 7 IBM x 3650 servers at remote locations, 1 x IBM DS3400 Array.

KEY LESSONS LEARNED

- Reduce risk by developing a strategic five year plan – or roadmap – for your IT infrastructure
- Look ahead to ensure that equipment can be supported long term
- Ensure your service provider fully understands the scope of your requirements, not only for day-to-day operations but for disaster recovery

BENEFITS FOR RUNGE LIMITED

With the implementation completed in an aggressive 6-8 month timeframe, Runge Limited has now replaced its legacy infrastructure with one that is scalable and cost-effective, with assured back-end support from Computer Merchants and IBM.

Management overheads are reduced as a result of consolidating multiple environments into a standard, global environment; and reducing the number of maintenance providers also reduces support costs.

With Computer Merchants, Runge Limited gains peace of mind that the equipment in place can now be supported for 8-10 years to come. Computer Merchants provides fast onsite support in Sydney and Brisbane, and is backed up by IBM for support in other locations globally.

Four years on, the infrastructure is working well. The disaster recovery solution was tested during the January 2011 Brisbane floods, and passed with flying colours. Runge Limited's building itself was not water-affected, but infrastructure including power and water were interrupted.

Runge could have swapped operations to run from the Sydney data centre, but this wasn't necessary as the Brisbane office infrastructure had been designed with generators on the roof to power the data centre in an emergency. So whilst most of the Brisbane CBD was dark, Runge Limited had lighting, power and air conditioning.

ABOUT COMPUTER MERCHANTS

Computer Merchants is an IBM Premier Business Partner with a focus on buying, selling and renting new and used equipment. Since 1979, Computer Merchants has forged a reputation as the most proactive, customer focused and service driven ICT partner in the country. As per our 'Plain English Terms and Conditions' Computer Merchants guarantee you will be happy with the end result.

From our beginnings in 1979 brokerage of IBM hardware was our core focus. Thirty years on, we have maintained our brokerage skills and offerings as well as complete IBM based solutions including hardware, software and services. Today Computer Merchants is an IBM Premier Business Partner and the 144th largest privately owned business in Queensland.

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ABOUT IBM

IBM is a global technology and innovation company that stands for progress. With operations in over 170 countries, IBMers around the world invent and integrate hardware, software and services to help forward-thinking enterprises, institutions and people everywhere succeed in building a smarter planet.

With a 79 year history in Australia, IBM has been applying its expertise, global scope and creativity to help Australia compete in the global digital economy. We also lead the market in exporting \$A539 million of software, services and human capital to the Asia Pacific region.



IT infrastructure is more than just buying a piece of equipment, and Computer Merchants recognises that. They worked in partnership with us to understand our needs, and to present a solution that would work for us globally. We made a couple of unusual requests, and they accommodated those easily. Four years on, this solution is meeting our expanding needs as an organisation, it's supported, and we know it's flexible enough to continue to evolve as our needs change.

Dr Steve Carroll,
Global ITS Manager,
Runge Limited

