

IBM and Crédit Mutuel Strengthen Their Strategic Partnership to Build the Bank of Tomorrow

Crédit Mutuel to deploy Watson across all business lines

PARIS, May 24, 2018 /PRNewswire/ -- At [VivaTech](#) today, Crédit Mutuel announced a sweeping digital reinvention, partnering with IBM (NYSE: [IBM](#)) to devise new ways of working to better serve the bank's 12 million customers. Crédit Mutuel has selected IBM Cloud, Watson and advanced cybersecurity technologies to fundamentally change how its customer relationships are developed and maintained.

As part of a bold strategy to embed artificial intelligence solutions in most of its banking and insurance businesses, Crédit Mutuel will now deploy IBM Watson across all of its business lines - Consumer Credit, Personal Protection, Health, Payment Instruments and Risk and Compliance. For its next wave of transformation, Crédit Mutuel will combine multiple technologies from IBM – IBM Cloud, Security, and Watson – to reconceive partner relationships and operations. For example, Crédit Mutuel will now be able to reassign 200,000 working days annually towards training, upgrading advisors' skills and expanding sales activities. This follows last year's successful Watson deployment of an e-mail analyzer and virtual assistant to 20,000 advisors.

"Crédit Mutuel is deeply involved in a strategic partnership with IBM that will enable it to use technology and innovation to help people," said Nicolas Théry, chairman of Crédit Mutuel CM11 Group. "Through this new joint-construction stage, Crédit Mutuel is enabled to transform its productivity gains and growth opportunities and pave the way for new services for millions of Crédit Mutuel customers and members."

Protecting customer data with Cloud

Under the extended partnership with IBM, Crédit Mutuel will be equipped to manage risk and compliance issues such as anti-money laundering and financing of terrorism, with tighter controls and monitoring with business and client identification.

In the IBM Cloud, Watson services will be secured in a fully encrypted, dedicated and isolated environment in France with back-up in Germany. In keeping with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) compliance, Crédit Mutuel customer data is private and will never be for sale. Crédit Mutuel and IBM are fully aligned on their values around customer data protection.

Additionally, Crédit Mutuel has chosen IBM QRadar Security Intelligence to collect all major cyber security information across the world, and make it available to its security analysts. This allows Crédit Mutuel to accelerate analysis on every cyber attack attempt they face and resolve them much faster. The bank is also using IBM MaaS360 to protect 10,000 advisors' mobile phones used across the overall Crédit Mutuel Group. Crédit Mutuel will continue to use an IBM Mainframe to ensure a robust, redundant, secure and encrypted environment for customer data and support large business process operations.

The Cognitive Factory: an innovation incubator

IBM Services and Crédit Mutuel are inaugurating the Cognitive Factory, bringing together AI engineers and line of business experts from Crédit Mutuel into a partnership with IBM experts. A result of a two-year experiment conducted through a joint taskforce from both companies, the Cognitive Factory can be deployed to foster more robust innovative solutions that better meet the needs of customers, members, and advisors.

This team of 100 professionals and experts, within Euro-Information, the FinTech IT group of Crédit Mutuel, will focus on skills, training and recruitment for the bank's technical team to ensure they remain at the forefront of innovation when implementing new AI projects across the bank. Crédit Mutuel and IBM are also creating and running a joint University program to recruit interns and experts to provide them with dual competencies in banking and AI, as well as Mainframe.

"Crédit Mutuel and IBM share a deep-rooted commitment to empowering professionals with AI to drive innovation, while ensuring this technology is adopted with utmost responsibility and care," said David Kenny, senior vice president, IBM Watson & Cloud platform. "Crédit Mutuel is turning these values into action by using Watson to build intelligence into every fabric of its company, while training its employees to collaborate effectively with the technology and guaranteeing complete data security and protection of customer information."

Last year, [Crédit Mutuel and IBM announced](#) the start of this journey to strengthen customer relationships, teaching IBM Watson the French language to turn data into new ways of doing business. Crédit Mutuel's advisors previously received 350,000 emails daily related to inquiries such as loan options or insurance coverage. IBM Watson is now deployed to more than 20,000 advisors across 5,000 branches and agencies, helping them to identify frequent requests, determine level of urgency, and respond more quickly and accurately. In addition, IBM, jointly with Euro-Information, designed and deployed virtual assistants to empower relationship managers across Insurance, Automotive, Savings, Health and Pension funds.

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