

Connecting to France-IX, a strategic move to migrate to the Cloud



Historically the operators, the internet services providers or the content delivery networks were the typical members of an internet exchange point. But over the years, they have been joined by other types of companies, more or less evolving in the internet industry.

The present study highlights that industrial corporations can also peer: global energy solutions provider **Schneider Electric** is a member of **France-IX** internet exchange since 2012.

Schneider Electric is a France-based multinational corporation that specializes in energy management.

Statistics in March 2014 : 140,000 employees / 100 countries / 24 billion € of sales in 2012



Probox Multifix Air Schneider Electric



Electrical Distribution



Schneider Electric Harmony XB5R
Wireless/Batteryless Push Button

NEED

Schneider Electric took up the challenge of migrating a lot of its critical applications to the **Cloud**.

By doing so, **Schneider Electric** also put more technical constraints on its network and started a reflection on its global internet accesses.

Accessing applications hosted in the **Cloud** requires the implementation of adequate links to join the hosters. These links must be redundant, overprovisioned and yet make sense on the budget line.

It was therefore mandatory for **Schneider Electric** to diversify its accesses, initially provided exclusively by **transit providers**, and **optimize** the related expenses.

« For the anecdote, we didn't know the traffic level we would have on France-IX. We estimated 50 Mbps but after one year, we noticed we had over 250 Mbps. »

Lionel **MARIE**
Network Architect



SOLUTION 

Many Cloud providers are connected to the French internet exchange. With that fact in mind, **Schneider Electric** saw an opportunity to reach some of its providers all at once and decided to subscribe to a 1Gbps connection, with a traffic under 200 Mbps to begin with.

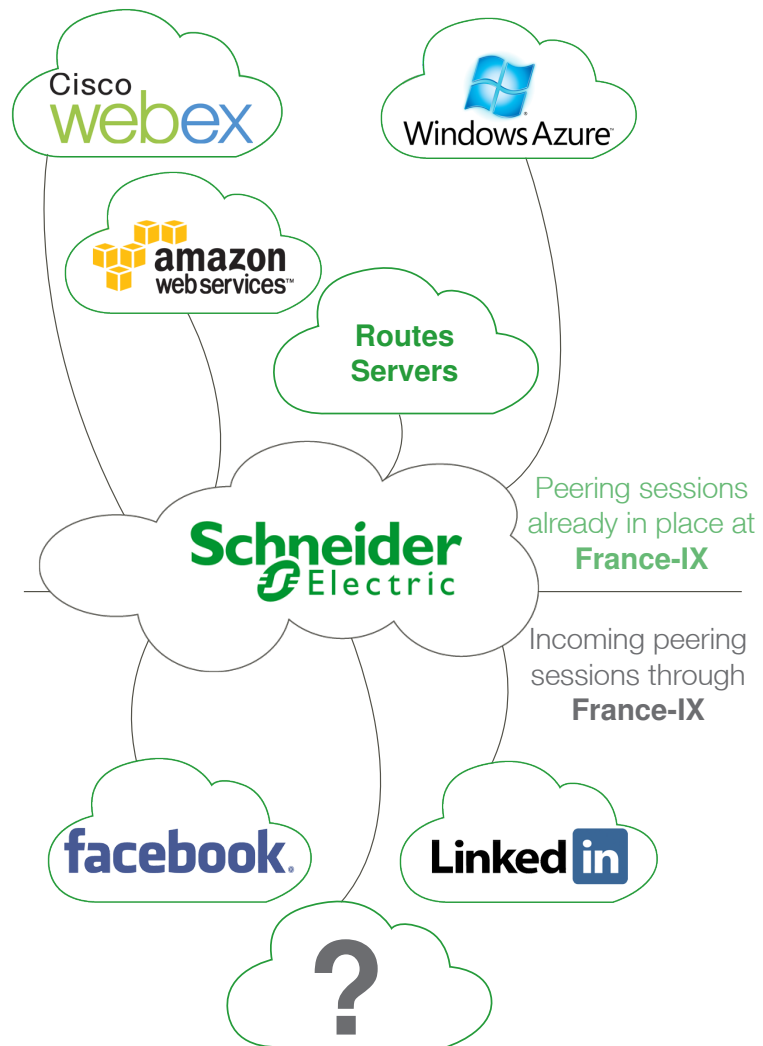
Before joining the point, **Schneider Electric** estimated its consumption on France-IX to a mere 50 Mbps. However, in less than one year, it was more than 250 Mbps which were exchanged between the international corporation and other **France-IX's** members. This traffic stands for 35% of the average traffic used by the group in Europe.

This traffic was widely obtained with the help of routes servers, a very popular service used by more than 85% of **France-IX's** members.

In addition to the routes servers, **Schneider Electric** concluded bilateral peering sessions with specific peers over **France-IX**. These bilateral sessions became primary paths. In case of an outage on the primary paths, **Schneider Electric** relies on its secondary paths provided by IP transit.

As a consequence, Schneider started 2014 by upgrading its connection to a full 1Gbps on **France-IX**.

France-IX represents the first internet exchange where **Schneider Electric** connected to and remains the primary platform for the peering traffic of Schneider.



EVOLUTION 

Schneider Electric forecasts a steady growth of its traffic exchanged over **France-IX**.

This assumption is based on the organic evolution of the Internet traffic, which always goes up.

But this is also backed up by the fact that more and more Cloud providers decide to join the international peering place of **France-IX**.

Thus, **Schneider Electric** is able to decrease the charge on its IP transit links to impute more and more traffic on its peering port. These changes keep on

slowing down the growth on the transit accesses and keep on optimizing the costs.

Inside **Schneider Electric**, the success story of deploying peering through France-IX will be duplicated in the United States and in Pacific Asia.

Schneider Electric intends to benefit from its experience in rationalizing its European internet traffic to go on and build up a global efficient peering strategy.

Accordingly the group plans on reaching out to the Cloud providers locally over the US and Asian internet exchanges in 2014.