

Wholesale Distribution & Services

Delivering delicious food day in, day out

Cheney Brothers

Delivering fresh and frozen foods across the Americas, with Lenovo ThinkSystem SR950 servers and Lenovo Managed Services.



Lenovo

1

Who is Cheney Brothers?

Cheney Brothers is one of the fastest growing food service distributors in the United States, with annual sales of over \$2 billion. The company distributes and exports top-quality ingredients by land, air, and sea in the US, Mexico, Latin America, and the Caribbean.

Now in its fourth generation as a family owned and operated business, Cheney Brothers continues to grow through both new product introductions and strategic acquisitions. Headquartered in Rivera Beach, FL, the company employs around 2,900 people.



2

The Challenge

Every year, Cheney Brothers' fleet of 750 trucks travel 21 million miles to deliver food and drink products to restaurants, cafeterias, and caterers across the Americas. With thousands of trucks and trailers on the road, 14 storage facilities, four distribution centers, and an inventory of more than 64,000 fresh and frozen products, keeping services running smoothly is an enormous challenge.

To manage everything from supply chain and distribution to finance, Cheney Brothers must keep its core SAP Business Suite powered by SAP HANA platform running 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

“We receive millions of dollars' worth of orders every single day, and rely on our SAP Business Suite applications to process and fulfil those orders—they are absolutely mission-critical. Any downtime would severely impact operations as well as our bottom line, so we need to make sure that the infrastructure underpinning our SAP landscape is available around the clock.”

Raul Revilla

SAP Basis Administrator, Cheney Brothers

Taking the next step

For years, Cheney Brothers has relied on Lenovo systems to keep its SAP applications running smoothly. In preparation for its upcoming move to the next-generation SAP S/4HANA, Cheney Brothers recently replaced its Lenovo System x servers with newer, more powerful ThinkSystem SR950 servers.

“As well as keeping our SAP landscape on the vendor’s support path, this will enable us to take advantage of new capabilities such as real-time data analytics,” says Revilla. “An eight-socket server, the Lenovo ThinkSystem SR950 will meet the demanding CPU and memory requirements of SAP S/4HANA when we make the move. The build quality of the hardware is excellent, and we’re very happy with the performance.”

Hardware

Lenovo ThinkSystem SR950

Software

SAP Business Suite on HANA
SAP HANA
SAP S/4HANA
SUSE Linux Enterprise Server
VMware vSphere

Services

Lenovo Managed Services

Today, Cheney Brothers' SAP system landscape consists of six ThinkSystem SR950 servers—three at its primary data center and three at a disaster recovery (DR) site. The company engaged a team of experts from Lenovo Managed Services to handle day-to-day management and maintenance.



“In the past, we always insisted on handling everything ourselves in-house. But when we made the move to the SAP HANA database platform a few years ago, we decided to engage Lenovo Managed Services. Lenovo had provided the infrastructure for our SAP landscape for many years, so we felt comfortable handing over responsibility to them—and all these years later, we’re very glad that we did! Lenovo Managed Services keeps the SAP system landscape in shape, so we can focus on the business.”

Raul Revilla

SAP Basis Administrator, Cheney Brothers

3

Results

With high-performance, high-availability Lenovo ThinkSystem SR950 servers underpinning its SAP environment and Lenovo Managed Services responsible for technical maintenance, Cheney Brothers can be sure of its core business applications running reliably.

Revilla comments: “Lenovo Managed Services monitor our systems 24 hours a day and alert us as soon as they spot a potential problem. They conduct regular health checks, perform firmware updates, and install the latest security patches to ensure that our ThinkSystem servers are always performing at their best. We don’t need to worry about infrastructure management and maintenance at all—Lenovo takes care of everything.”



Configuration: eight-socket system is ideal for demanding SAP S/4HANA deployments



Performance: fast throughput for SAP HANA to drive business insights in real time



Consolidation: went from nine System x servers to six ThinkSystem SR950 servers



Support: Lenovo Managed Services provides worry-free infrastructure upgrades

Crucially, with the new Lenovo ThinkSystem SR950 servers, Cheney Brothers has laid a solid foundation for its upcoming move to SAP S/4HANA.

“We are just at the beginning of our SAP S/4HANA project, but knowing that we have rock-solid infrastructure in place is reassuring,” says Revilla. “The Lenovo ThinkSystem SR950 servers will help us to maximize system performance when we do make the move.”



“Thanks to Lenovo, we’ve never been in a position where we could not deliver our products—and we couldn’t be happier about that.”

Raul Revilla

SAP Basis Administrator, Cheney Brothers

Why **Lenovo**?

Lenovo is an SAP HANA market leader. Lenovo solutions such as the ThinkSystem SR950 are architected and designed for better business outcomes with SAP applications, simplified acquisition and deployment, and enhanced service and support.

Technical specifications are important to Cheney Brothers, particularly in relation to its upcoming move to SAP S/4HANA. So too is the quality of Lenovo Services.

Revilla comments: “We’re so glad that we outsourced the management of our SAP landscape. Our experience of Lenovo Managed Services has been excellent. We always work with the same dedicated team of consultants, so we have a great relationship with them, and they know our systems and our business very well. The Lenovo team monitoring our systems 24/7 is very reassuring, and saves us a lot of stress and worry.”



How do you keep operations running smoothly 24/7?

Refreshing a mission-critical SAP system landscape with Lenovo technology.

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