



# Roland Garros 2009: A global tournament for performance and environmental preservation



For 24 years now, the

[Fédération Française de Tennis and IBM](#)

have been working hand in hand to make Roland Garros one of the world's most exciting sports events. As the Official Information Technology and Internet Partner for the French Open – and for all the other Grand Slam championships – IBM is committed to efficient and innovative data collecting, processing and transmission: statistics, serve speeds, TV graphics.

The official website, [www.rolandgarros.com](http://www.rolandgarros.com)

reflects the partnership's growing success. One of IBM and FFT's prime objectives is to make the tournament accessible to the greatest number of users possible and to draw fans into the heart of the action while reinforcing their environmental commitment.

### A dynamic, smart and cost-efficient infrastructure

Since 2006, IBM has been focusing on [virtualizing](#) the infrastructure to enhance systems management and optimize resource utilization. Distributed over three different sites, the virtualized servers are scaled up or down according to demand. This method of managing extensive virtual resources, known as [cloud computing](#), ensures the network is able to cope with dramatic peaks in online traffic during the tournament.

## Highlights

### ■ The challenge facing the Fédération Française de Tennis (FFT)?

To couple innovation and performance with green commitment to increase the tournament's global visibility while reducing its environmental footprint.

### ■ The solution

- Implementation of [a complete, dynamic and smart infrastructure](#), optimized in 2009 with [IBM POWER6 processor technology](#).
- Creation of new services on [www.rolandgarros.com](http://www.rolandgarros.com): ["Visual Match"](#) for a deeper understanding of the key moments of a match, a dedicated forum, a [widget](#) in both English and French, plus features enabling Internet users to enjoy the tournament as if they were present..

### ■ The benefits

- A [développement durable](#) approach thanks to the impact of virtualization on energy consumption and to server consolidation.
- An infrastructure designed to support, throughout the 15-day French Open, traffic [100 fois plus dense](#) the year-round figure.
- A constantly enriched website which drew over 6.3 million Internet users in 2008 for more than 260 million page views.



Thus, over a three-year period, the number of servers has gone from sixty to six. In 2009, six **POWER6** systems are replacing the nine **POWER5** servers used in 2008. This technology, which boosts performance while reducing energy usage, opens up completely new horizons.

**POWER6** technology is particularly well suited to Roland Garros's fluctuating needs. The powerful, scalable microprocessor allows the allocated resources to rapidly and automatically adjust to traffic that is increasing year-on-year, with 35 million visits in 2008 compared to 27 million in 2007. These changing technologies also enable the FFT to address environmental concerns and reduce costs. Since 2006, truly substantial savings have been generated with a decrease of 40 per cent in power consumption and of 48 per cent in cooling load. On the other hand, for the same period, online visits have risen 26 per cent while cost per visit has dropped 38 per cent.

#### **Enriched services for Internet users**

The savings brought about by virtualization and IBM **green technologies** have enabled investment in new smart services such as **Visual Match**. Present on [www.rolandgarros.com](http://www.rolandgarros.com), it allows fans to "dissect" the Men and Women's singles for a better understanding of the key moments. Match statistics are delivered in graph form illustrating the techniques players used to win points.

And for visitors to enjoy the thrill of a game at Roland Garros, official photos and videos have also been placed on the homepage.

Fans can comment on these photos and **videos** as well as on the site's articles directly or through a forum using the Your Comments tool.

They can even filter the comments by region to create a dialog with fans in their community.

Also in 2009, the **widget** is now available in French too. Freely accessible from the site, it provides scores in real time and can be added to various social networking sites including Facebook or installed on the desktop. Yet another way for fans to stay connected to the French Open!

#### **Roland Garros, a sports event resolutely committed to innovation**

According to Alexandre Loth, Roland Garros IT manager, "IT systems are becoming increasingly light and precise." He explains that this concept of dynamic architecture "marks the culmination of the FFT's efforts seeking primarily to achieve simplification, greater flexibility, reinforced security and reduced production costs".

By supporting the French Open's growing reach since 1985, IBM has helped turn this international tournament into an event resolutely committed to innovation, to the great satisfaction of fans and tennis players all around the world.

#### **Compagnie IBM France**

Tour Descartes - La Défense 5  
2, avenue Gambetta  
F - 92400 Courbevoie  
Tél. : 0810 011 810  
**ibm.com/fr**

IBM, the IBM logo, IBM POWER6 and POWER5 are trademarks of International Business Machines Corporation in the United States, other countries, or both.

Other product, company or service names may be trademarks or service marks of others.

References in this publication to IBM products, programs or services do not imply that IBM intends to make them available in all countries in which IBM operates.

Any reference to an IBM product, program or service in this publication is not intended to state or imply that only IBM's product, program or service may be used. Any functionally equivalent product, program, or service that does not infringe any of IBM's intellectual property rights may be used instead.

This publication illustrates how the IBM client uses IBM and/or Business Partner technologies/services. Many factors have contributed to the results and benefits described. IBM does not guarantee comparable results. All information contained herein was provided by the customer and/or Business Partner. IBM does not attest to its accuracy.

This publication is for general guidance only. Information is subject to change without notice. Please contact your local IBM sales office or reseller for latest information on IBM products and services. Photographs may show design models.

Photo credit: Fédération Française de Tennis

2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2009  
© Copyright IBM Corporation 2009  
All rights reserved.

