How does one of Britain’s biggest and most established retailers overhaul its legacy IT systems without impacting day-to-day operations?

With over 1,400 stores nationwide, Sainsbury’s is the UK’s second largest supermarket chain. Operating since 1869, it’s become an icon of British retail. But there was a problem.

"Our customer-facing initiatives would stall due to lack of access to data. A lot of our data lived in very old legacy systems which were so critical for the running of the business that no one wanted to touch them because if they stop, the business stops."

With Confluent, we can now react to situations and make decisions in real time, which is critical for our future.

The retailer needed a system that could handle huge volumes of event data. Critical data, needed to run the operation smoothly, was difficult to access.

Confluent provided an event-streaming solution that connects physical actions to digital actions instantly. And this meant the retailer couldn't innovate as fast as it wanted to.

Freeing up data and helping them transition to a cloud-native platform.

"Confluent helped drive a new way of thinking by training our engineers, having people available to answer questions, and sanity-checking new designs."

Stream processing lets Sainsbury’s perform computations over vast events streams, and filter collections of data to get materialized views through SQL.

Across the entire supply chain, the efficiency of engineering development thanks to real time data streams of sprint time saved with managed support from Confluent. Helped to simplify the development and management of connectors, so the retailer can organize and interpret their data more effectively.

"With Confluent, we can now move to solutions and make decisions in real time, which is critical for our future."

And the results?

Sainsbury’s customers now have better availability of products and reduced prices thanks to cost-savings further up the supply chain. The retailer can now react to situations in real time, which is invaluable when it comes to problem-solving, and building additional infrastructure.

In-house engineers now have the capacity to focus on business logic, instead of setting up databases or managing data access.

Sainsbury’s is on track to completely replace all of its outdated legacy systems and implement a new future-proof supply chain.

Find out more at confluent.io/customers/sainsburys