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SIMPLIFY IT COMPLEXITY WITH AN AS-A-SERVICE MODEL

In traditional IT environments, it's a challenge to predict how much infrastructure will be needed – today and in the future. This, compounded by lengthy procurement cycles, can result in the over provisioning of storage capacity and result in unnecessary spend.

As-a-service models are changing this. Operating with the agility of the public cloud, but with the security of on-premises infrastructure, the as-a-service model is built in your own environment or colocation facility. It delivers scalability, self-service functionality, and centralized IT control – all with the benefit of a consumption model to pay as you use.

THE CHALLENGES OF TRADITIONAL IT

Traditional on-premises environments face a big challenge when it comes to estimating capacity requirements. IT must determine the quantity of storage, compute, and networking resources needed to serve the business. They must take into account anticipated spikes in traffic, seasonal variations, and the predicted rate of expansion. Most of the time, they get it wrong. According to Futurum Research, 67% of organizations over-invest in storage solutions to avoid the risk of running out of capacity. This is an expensive way to do business. Yet the alternative is downtime and poor performance due to running out of capacity.

When you factor in on-premises procurement processes, it is also slow. Once IT has developed its capacity forecast for the coming year – inaccurate though it may be – it now engages in researching, evaluating, selecting, financing, ordering, and deploying the necessary technology. This has always been a months-long endeavor. But current supply chain woes mean lengthy lead times for equipment such as networking switches and storage arrays.

Once received, a well-manned and efficient IT department is needed to install, configure, and load the new equipment with software. But it doesn't end there. Networks and storage equipment need constant attention. Software and hardware issues must be resolved, updates and patches installed, and network connectivity maintained. And every few years, all that equipment must be changed out. The process repeats.

CLOUD GROWTH AND COMPLEXITY

No wonder the cloud has been embraced so enthusiastically in the enterprise. By 2023, almost half of all enterprise applications will be developed for the cloud. 39% of IT budgets will be spent on cloud services in 2023 (up from 34% in 2021), with enterprises using an average of nine cloud providers, according to IT research firm Omdia. Cloud popularity has grown due to benefits such as greater flexibility and application agility, as well as lower costs.

451 Research noted that 60% of enterprises will utilize cloud consumption models by 2023. Yet the same research firm reports that around two-thirds of applications remain on-premises due to a variety of reasons. They include system interdependencies, cost, security, data gravity, compliance, and the presence of monolithic legacy applications that are too challenging to migrate to the cloud. With IT spread thinly between the cloud and on-prem, infrastructure and networks are becoming mired in complexity. Not only must IT deal with apps in both worlds, they must also wrestle with a multitude of cloud services from different providers. The result is a siloed, inconsistent, and hard-to-control IT backbone. Lack of visibility makes it difficult to predict costs and almost impossible to correctly forecast capacity needs for storage, compute, and networking resources.

THE AS-A-SERVICE MODEL EMERGES

Caught between on-prem and the cloud, and facing complexity on both sides, as-a-service models have emerged to return simplicity to IT operations. The as-a-service approach marries the security of on-premises infrastructure with cloud agility. The benefits are many. They include:

A Cloud Experience, Everywhere

The as-a-service model means infrastructure can reside in your own environment or hosted at a colocation facility while providing the functionality of the cloud. Thus, the cloud versus on-prem argument is eliminated. Cloud-native applications can exist side by side with legacy or highly sensitive applications. Everything is operated, managed, and controlled centrally and securely. This enables enterprises to gain a cloud experience across their on-premises data centers, at the edge, in a hybrid setting, and in multi-cloud environments.

Right-sized IT to Meet Business Demands

Instead of already overloaded IT staff doing the heavy lifting, the service provider takes care of everything: Assessing both immediate and projected capacity needs; supplying and installing all the gear; and adding a buffer or reserve capacity that is available instantly should demand spike or to accommodate rapid organizational growth. No more inflated budgets due to overprovisioning of storage, compute, and networking. The organization receives the amount of IT resources it needs at the time it needs them – no more, no less.

Lower Cost

There are no upfront capital investments. You only pay for the hardware and software you consume. If demand rises, more resources are made available. The user pays for these only when they are used. A seasonal rush of traffic, for example, would be billed during that season only. Similarly, if traffic volumes decline, the amount charged falls proportionally. This eliminates over-provisioning, any need to predict how much infrastructure will be needed in the future, and lengthy procurement cycles for capacity additions.

Take the case of Cyber Monday, Black Friday, the holiday season, or monthly spikes in traffic due to reporting or financials. The as-a-service model smoothly accommodates these events, scaling up and down seamlessly based on traffic volumes. No need to stockpile expensive extra capacity that sits unused for most of the year as a wat to cope with that seasonal surge. With pay-per-use services, you are no longer paying for that additional capacity.

Simplified IT

As-a-service means one integrated platform to run, manage, and enhance your entire hybrid estate. With a cloud experience everywhere, complexity is minimized. IT can focus on initiatives that directly relate to strategic business objectives instead of being mired in IT plumbing, equipment procurement, maintenance, troubleshooting, and the many other tasks that take up most of their time. IT management not only gains control over infrastructure sprawl and inefficiency, cloud and IT spend is simplified via a predicable monthly cost. No more surprises due to sudden surges in traffic or urgent purchase orders in response to an unpredicted spike in traffic.

Additionally, the as-a-service model can be used for the many workloads that are not appropriate for a cloud setting such as monolithic and legacy apps. As they are often too complex and entangled to migrate, they typically remain on-prem. The as-a-service approach accommodates these applications via the establishment of a hybrid cloud environment that sits within your data center or in a colocation facility.

Reduced Hiring Stress

In this age of chronic IT staffing challenges, the seamless IT experience provided by the on-prem cloud services model helps overcome IT skills shortages. Those individuals with technology integration and implementation expertise are in high demand, according to IDG's 2021 State of the CIO report. They may be hard to find and are likely to demand high salaries. The on-prem as-a-service experience eases staffing challenges, while speeding the delivery of IT services.

Faster Time to Value

In the past, the sluggishness of internal IT procurement and application deployment led to the phenomenon known as shadow IT. Line of business (LOB) heads sometimes downloaded cloud applications for use in their own units without central IT involvement. The as-a-service model eliminates the risk of shadow IT via instant scalability. LOBs gain self-service functionality, the business avoids potential security risks and unmanaged costs, and IT maintains control. IT, in turn, is freed up to focus on strategic objectives such as digital transformation, new e-Commerce and social media channels, and the development of mission-critical applications.

Centralized Control

The cloud versus on-prem debate, too, is eliminated. Both sides are granted their place. New applications enjoy the benefits of the cloud; legacy or highly sensitive applications can remain in a familiar on-prem setting.

Everything is operated, managed, and controlled centrally and securely. This enables enterprises to gain a cloud experience in their on-premises data centers, at the edge, and in multi-cloud environments.

Deeper Data Insights

Further, this approach helps you achieve greater insights into your IT environment. By pooling on-prem and cloud resources into one integrated platform, data sharing and collaboration are enhanced. BI and analytic apps gain much easier access to the data they need to derive the insights that drive the business. IT delivers a single source of truth about applications, security issues, user behavior, performance, and customer activity.

TAP INTO EXPERTISE ON DEMAND

As organizations often struggle to find talent to manage their environments, they can lean on the cloud services provider for expertise in integration across public and private infrastructure. Experts are at hand to deal with any issues. Whether it is performance, security, capacity, or cost, experienced advisors are available that have been involved in thousands of successful cloud and as-a-Service deployments.

Verinext, a leading provider of transformative business technology solutions, partners closely with as-a-service platforms such as HPE GreenLake to bring the public cloud experience into your own data center or colocation facility.

LEARN MORE

Contact us today to find out how the as-a-service cloud model can offer you a cohesive and greatly simplified IT environment where capacity forecasting headaches are eliminated, budgeting is streamlined, and overall cost of ownership is lowered.