

# CHARTING YOUR AS-A-SERVICE JOURNEY

**Becoming a data-driven enterprise requires the complete reimagination of IT. With infrastructure and services that deliver cloud-like flexibility and agility, organizations can realize value at the speed of business.**

This is only achievable via the as-a-service model. With the agility of the public cloud and the security of on-premises infrastructure, it delivers scalability, self-service functionality, and centralized IT control. The question is, how do you get there? Here are the steps to take when charting your as-a-service journey:

## 1 DOCUMENT YOUR BUSINESS GOALS

Embarking on an as-a-service transformation project must be done in full alignment with your business goals. These must be discussed, detailed, and fully coordinated before beginning. Where does the organization want to be in one year, in three years? What is the competitive situation and what is the strategy laid down by top management to improve it? Where can digital transformation bring about the most gain in productivity and profitability? By answering such questions, the organization sets a framework which brings the right pathway to as-as-service success into sharper focus.

## 2 ASSESS YOUR MODERNIZATION MIX

Instead of rushing headlong into technology acquisition, it is vital to assess current operations. A survey must be done of all software currently running, who uses it, and any dependencies. The entire wired and wireless experience must be mapped, and an inventory must be taken of any and all equipment across your business.

Further, in-depth business discussions should take place where top executives and IT managers can outline your full requirements, the various application use cases present, and any future needs on the application front.

## 3 DISCOVER WHERE YOUR DATA LIVES

Businesses, these days, have their data spread across multiple siloes. This includes multiple on-premises databases, various stores of application data, and a wide array of different storage media. Data might be sitting on disk and SSD-based systems, as well as tape. Some of the tape data may be offline or even offsite.

And then there is the cloud. It is common practice for organizations to utilize more than one cloud service provider. As they don't wish to put all their eggs in an Amazon, Google, or Azure basket, they often spread their cloud data around. They may also use many SaaS applications and have that data stored by an assortment of vendors. All this needs to be assessed, mapped out, and fully understood prior to embarking on the as-a-service journey.

## 4 EVALUATE YOUR IT TALENT

A few businesses are in the lucky position of having an abundance of well-trained, highly certified, and experienced IT personnel. Most, though, have been dealing with threadbare staffing rosters and difficulty in filling positions. There are over 300,000 IT job postings unfilled currently according to CompTIA. IT talent is in short supply. Therefore, it is necessary to assess your IT resources with a clinical eye. Do they possess the skills to conduct an end-to-end

application, infrastructure, and data modernization initiative? Are they already overloaded with routine tasks such as system maintenance, backups, patching, and troubleshooting? How long have you been advertising key positions without them being filled? Gain a clear understanding of the personnel situation. For most, it will make it abundantly clear that help is needed urgently. The as-a-service model provides a way to achieve this without entering the dog-eat-dog world of IT recruiting and exorbitant salary demands.

## 5 PROJECT PLANNING

Planning must cover both the technology deployment and implementation phases. It must act as the guide for procurement across all components and equipment including low voltage cabling, software, UPS battery backup, servers, switches, and much more. And it must be based on a strategy that correctly addresses the data uncovered during the earlier inventorying and assessment steps. Be sure to include comprehensive infrastructure architecture and design mapping, as well as the development of a full CAD floorplan if everything is to remain onsite.

Further, the planning of a transformational journey should clearly identify the solutions and services that are needed to fulfill business objectives. In the vast majority of cases, the as-as-service option will be the one that most effectively marries business requirements and strategies with the necessities of budgeting and personnel resources. Lastly, enlist any and all stakeholders to ensure you have their full backing for this plan.

## 6 PUT AUTOMATION TO WORK

The as-as-service model provides a unified experience across cloud and on-premises resources. It harnesses automation to gain a simplified view and access to all cloud services, including capabilities at the edge. It reimagines the via an open platform that encompasses both cloud-native and traditional applications. Designed for the modern DevOps model, services are programmatically provisioned, configured and scaled. Everything is integrated with the organization's approved configurations, toolchains, images, and networks.

## 7 SUPPORT

The as-a-service journey will falter if the organization must constantly interact with multiple vendors. In that scenario, it is too easy for one vendor to blame another for any ongoing issues. Therefore, transformational objectives must be backed up expert implementation and professional services support that include full vendor management and deployment coordination. They must offer end-to-end managed services that include compute, storage, networking, and cybersecurity.

**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 in your own data center or colocation facility.**

## Simplify IT Complexity with an As-a-Service Model

See why an as-a-service model gives you the ability of the public cloud, with the security of on-premises infrastructure.

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If you're ready to simplify your IT environment and eliminate capacity forecasting headaches and lower your overall cost of ownership, contact us today to get started.