Silver linings: the benefits of moving IT infrastructure to the cloud

Cloud computing is fast becoming the standard for new IT systems, as companies try to accelerate digital transformation projects and increase the flexibility and efficiency of their IT infrastructure.

At the recent Future of Digital Infrastructure is Cloud conference, experts discussed subjects including the next phase of cloud adoption and why IT organizations need to handle multilayer applications in "complex multi-cloud operations".

In a presentation, Rick Villars, Group Vice President, Worldwide Research at IDC, gave an overview of changes in cloud computing and what they mean for CIOs and their IT infrastructure.

According to IDC research published in 2021, in the next two years, digital infrastructure resiliency programs are a priority/top priority for around seven in ten organizations.

"Digital is a permanent, yet dynamic fixture in our world," said Rick. This "digital-first" approach applies to any entity (company, government, consumer, patient, citizen) that is always asking if there is a digital-based capability/enhancement that could improve lives and desired outcomes, he added.

Companies' top return on investment from cloud computing was reduced IT administrative costs, followed by improved performance and efficiency and improved business processes, according to a survey of attendees at the IDC cloud roadshow event.

However, delegates' objectives for cloud computing sometimes differ to the most common ROI companies get from it, according to the same conference survey. The top objectives for cloud computing were digital transformation, scalability, and cost savings.

By 2023, most of the world's top 2,000 companies (known as the "G2000") will use remote or hybrid-first work models, redefine work processes and engage diverse talent pools, Rick said.

By the same year, many of these companies will develop new processes based on remote-first and intelligent automation designs, compared with a limited number in 2021.

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> "Most of the new digital technologies will run on cloud computing,"
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> Rick Villars, Group Vice President, Worldwide Research at IDC.

departments, including changing key performance indicators (KPIs) from IT metrics to line-of-business outcomes and automating whole business operations, rather than only automating business tasks, as often happens now, Rick said.

In a further presentation at the event, Aarti Mohan, Director of Business Development at Oracle, said the traditional role of a company IT department is changing from keeping the lights on (technology infrastructure provider, technical maintenance, updates and testing, innovation) to strategic projects, – such as proactive innovation, and continuous analysis and adoption of the latest releases.

"IT [departments] have shifted towards being an innovation partner," she said.

More organisations than ever − including the Marriott Hotel Group, Vanguard, an investment company, and Lyft, a ride-hailing company − are using Oracle's Fusion Cloud Applications, Aarti said.

MTN Group, a South African telecoms operator has used Oracle Cloud to halve its time for budget preparation. Ooba, a South African finance company, used it to provide its staff with access to crucial HR systems during the pandemic.

Oracle has embedded AI technology in its cloud software enterprise applications. Companies can feed it with up-to-the-minute financial data, or data from the previous day. The Oracle software can then "spit out" continuous forecasts for your business, Aarti said.

This and other technologies in Oracle cloud software, including blockchain and Internet of Things (IoT), enables IT departments to focus on "a strategic role rather than technical maintenance" she added.

Oracle is committed to supporting IT leaders on their ERP transformation journey. Visit our ERP transformation self-assessment tool to get tailored advice on how to smoothen your ERP cloud modernisation with Oracle

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