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Best Practices for Achieving IT Agility

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In this era of rapid digital transformation, traditional methods for delivering IT services may not be timely or dynamic enough to meet the challenges and opportunities facing your organization.

Agile IT helps your business to seize opportunities by applying the right resources for each workload as needed. Delivered by private and public cloud as well as on-premises infrastructure as-a-Service, on-demand IT gives you the flexibility to be more responsive to the needs of your organization. Delivering IT agility at scale requires the combination of the commitment to organizational change and the technologies that enable their execution.

In this eBook, we discuss three best practices IT leaders are embracing to achieve newfound levels of IT agility, simplicity and transparency.

81% of organizations

recognize that they need a more agile infrastructure to allow for contingencies.[1]

Contents

1. Flexibility

Organizations are increasingly relying on IT to be flexible in order to help the business stay agile. This has resulted in a growing shift in the IT market globally toward on-demand as-a-service and pay-per-use economic models. According to research conducted by Vanson Bourne, 74% of organizations are investing in on-demand digital services.[2]

With an ever-growing list of technology demands, one-size-fits-all purchase and consumption models no longer fit your business. You need more choice and flexibility in how you purchase and consume IT. Whether you choose traditional technology acquisition or on-demand, pay-as-you-go models, you need to be able to deploy the resources users require on-demand for the best performance and financial outcomes.

Many workloads and data sources require elastic capacity that can rapidly scale up or scale out as needed in real time. In these workload and data scenarios, organizations benefit when enough capacity is deployed to accommodate peak and burst usage. Flexible, consumption-based delivery models allow you to scale so you can consume

the technology you need when you need it, optimizing budgets and manpower and ensuring better responsiveness to the needs of your organization. You get the IT agility you need to accelerate digital transformation and meet future challenges and business objectives.

"[Flexible IT] allows us to move to a modern tech stack that is expandable and connectable."
—Daragh Mahon, EVP and CIO of Werner Enterprises[3]

2. Consistency

Faced with competitive pressures to quickly develop new products and solutions that satisfy customer expectations, organizations are increasingly turning to the cloud to keep pace with innovation. But not every workload works optimally in every public cloud. A hybrid IT approach that leverages both on-premises and off-premises cloud and modernized infrastructure can provide you with the ability to optimally deploy, operate and scale workloads on demand.

In order for IT administrators and end-users to experience familiarity as they move from one platform to another—easily migrating workloads as security requirements and costs dictate—establish a consistent experience across your public clouds, private clouds and the edge.

As organizations are increasingly relying on cloud technology, building in this consistency is key. Organizations that can deliver cloud management consistency have a distinct advantage over those who don't; 87% of organizations with cloud management consistency see faster time to market, while 84% experience reduced risk and enhanced security. These organizations also are able to cut an average of 2.4 work-weeks per cloud migration.[4]

By using platforms that extend and interact seamlessly end to end across your technology portfolio regardless of vendor, you can maximize productivity across an application's lifecycle without disruption or requiring users to manage multiple, inconsistent interfaces.

Protect your most valuable assets across environments by choosing intrinsically secure infrastructure and devices with comprehensive data protection and cyber recovery. You'll breathe easier knowing that your data and IT assets are secure, protected and available.

"We believe in the power of hybrid multi-cloud architectures that integrate our on-premises infrastructure with cloud-based solutions for reliability, productivity, agility and on-demand scalability."

—Greg Ogle, VP of global IT infrastructure and cloud operations at Equinix[3]

3. Responsiveness

Maximizing IT agility will enable you to keep up with the pace of business and be more responsive to its needs. The best way to support the business is to create a natural parallel between your IT environment and the objectives of your overall organization, starting with alignment between IT and the application development team. A platform that supports modern application development, deployment and management through automated tasks and orchestration enables your IT team to become more responsive to the real-time objectives of your organization.

Agility is made real when you can process traditional and transformational workloads through infrastructure that enables you to assign the right resources for the right workload and to change dynamically as business needs change. This frees your IT staff to focus on the innovative outcomes that your organization is counting on you to drive.

In the end, IT Agility is about how IT will enable business agility. The more alignment between business and IT the greater the level of agility for both that will be achieved.

Achieve IT agility with Dell Technologies

In a time of vastly accelerated digital transformation, you'll need to provide timely, on-demand IT that meets your challenges head-on. Dell Technologies APEX delivers what you love about public cloud and what you need on-premises, so you can drive IT agility for your organization. We bring you world-class solutions with practical and proven experience to help serve the workloads that matter most to your organization. We offer flexible payment and value-added services options for PCs, servers, storage, data protection, networking and HCI to virtualization, software-defined and hybrid cloud solutions. And best of all, our offers are engineered for virtually any application, workload or use case for the ultimate flexibility.

With Dell Technologies, you have an ally with the technology expertise, end-to-end solutions, world-class services and relentless spirit that will stop at nothing to help you harness the transformative power of technology for the needs of your organization and the demands of our 24/7 digital economy.

Learn more at DellTechnologies.com.

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Sources

[1] Dell Technologies Digital Transformation Index, October 2020. Research conducted by Vanson Bourne surveying 4,300 business leaders across 18 countries. https://www.delltechnologies.com/dtindex.

[2] Vanson Bourne, Global Data Protection Index 2020 Snapshot, March 2020. A commissioned survey of 000 IT decision-makers across 15 countries globally on their data protection strategies, their approaches to data protection in cloud environments, and the relative preparedness of their businesses in cases of disruption. Full report: https://www.delltechnologies.com/en-us/data-protection/gdpi/index.htm.

[3] Based on a Forbes study commissioned by Dell Technologies and Intel, "Delivering On-Demand: Momentum Builds Toward Flexible IT" March 2021. Results based on a Forbes Insights global survey of 800 IT decision-makers with manager title and above conducted in November and December of 2020. Respondents came from a variety of industries, including retail, financial services, technology, manufacturing and telecommunications. All respondents came from firms with at least 500 employees. Actual results may vary. Full report: https://www.delltechnologies.com/resources/en-us/asset/analyst-reports/solutions/forbes-insights-delivering-on-demand.pdf.

[4] ESG Research Insights Paper "The Cloud Complexity Imperative: Why Organizations Must Unify and Simplify the Management of their Sprawling MulticloudEnvironment" commissioned by Dell Technologies, VMWare and Intel Corporation, February 2020. Results are based on a survey of 1,257 IT decision-makers from 11 countries and benchmarking consistent operations management across both public cloud and modern on-premises private cloud infrastructure. Actual results will vary. Full report: https://www.dellemc.com/en-us/cloud/hybrid-cloud-computing/index.htm#overlay=/collaterals/unauth/analyst-reports/solutions/cloud-complexity-imperative.pdf.