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5 Common Misconceptions about Composable Infrastructure

Composable infrastructure empowers organizations to build extremely flexible pools of computing, storage and fabric resources that can support virtually any type of workload. It is a framework that gives developers the ultimate platform for provisioning infrastructure at the speed of business. However, it is surprising that there is still confusion and misconceptions about the risks and benefits of embracing this new technology.

This technical brief discusses common misconceptions about Composable Infrastructure and offers further information to help you gain further knowledge about the benefits of this new technology.

With New Technology Comes Fear and Loathing

Composable infrastructure is new and gaining interest among technical companies. However, as a new technology, Composable Infrastructure is introducing change to the enterprise and its processes. This is no different than technologies that preceded it.

Change brings unease and fear, whether about loss of jobs or security and control. However, when addressed, these misconceptions can often be dispelled by the recognizing the improved efficiencies, and increased performance and opportunities for both employer and employee.

Five common misconceptions focus on these key decision topics:

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- Cost
- Stability
- Support
- Jobs
- Data Security and Control

Cost: It's Cheaper to Run in the Cloud

Everything is going to the cloud. Most organizations expect the public cloud to save money. But few businesses calculate all the direct and indirect costs associated with public cloud and compare those costs against alternatives, such as Composable Infrastructure. Composable Infrastructure, an on-premises platform that delivers cloud-like speed and flexibility, enables IT to deliver value rapidly and cost-effectively. In fact, when all cost and value components are considered, enterprises may find that an investment in Composable Infrastructure offers business value and benefits that public cloud deployments cannot equal. [1]

Composable Infrastructure allows you to address these cost-control issues by reducing operational inefficiencies through template-driven, frictionless operations made possible by software-defined intelligence. Templates define how the infrastructure functions and the infrastructure's internal,

[1] Infrastructure Economics: Five Things to Consider When Comparing Costs for Composable Infrastructure versus Public Cloud, Frost & Cloud, September 2016

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software-defined intelligence implements the necessary changes programmatically and without human intervention. Composable Infrastructure is made to accommodate changes on the fly in just a few mouse clicks. Hardware is deployed and managed automatically, further reducing labor costs The key cost values include better speed to market, capacity efficiencies, management and administration burden, risk management, and integration into a hybrid IT environment.

Stability: Technology Disrupts Everything

The luddites claim technology disrupts all current ways of living and doing business, thereby creating chaos. But in reality, this is often not true. Certainly change occurs, but how that change plays out depends on the benefits experienced by the stakeholders and public. Technology can improve process stability and living/business conditions.

> *As Robert Gordon of Northwestern University argues, clean water, modern sewerage, electricity, the telephone, the radio, the petroleum industry, the internal combustion engine, the motor car and the aeroplane — all innovations of the late 19th and early 20th centuries — were far more transformative than the information technologies of the past 75 years. Source: January 20, 2016 by: Martin Wolf, Financial Times*

History shows that the market determines what is accepted or not. If users find they benefit from the technology, they become accepters, particularly when the technology makes their lives easier. Consider these. Composable infrastructure will:

Fear: Current Vendors will Go Out of Business

Vendors go out of business every day and new ones replace them just as quickly. It is simply a factor of the economy, not technology itself. With many vendors adding composable capabilities within the several business cycles, equipment that is not composable-ready will soon be a thing of the past. Vendors will adapt.

Disuption: Change will Happen Immediately

As with other technologies, such as cell phones and cloud storage, change and acceptance takes time. Nothing happens immediately. But as Composable Infrastructure proofs itself as adding immediate value to the enterprise, its acceptance will be transformative for everybody, including businesses, employees, and vendors. Keep in mind that a company does not have to move all of its processes to a new technology like Composable Infrastructure, but can shift their existing environment to a hybrid system, such as a mix of public cloud, private cloud, and on-premise infrastructure.

As these changes occur, those companies that do not embrace the change will miss the opportunity to leverage technology enhancements that optimize workloads and deliver strategic value.

Support: Data Center and Support Go Away

Will Composable Infrastructure automate everything, and the Data Center no longer be needed? Will deployments and upgrades be completely automated, thereby eliminating the need for customer support to deploy and maintain computing solutions? The answer to these questions is NO. Composable Infrastructure offers greater flexibility and automation for upgrades and support solutions.

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The Internet of Things will continue to create even more demands. It is simply impossible to respond to these changes with a conventional approach.

The scale and the demand for instant access already require an infrastructure that can grow with ease to support new applications. There will be ever-increasing demands to deliver those applications faster, placing ever-greater strain on infrastructure resources. Composable Infrastructure offers the speed, flexibility, and partner ecosystem that can deliver real benefits for both IT and the business. As an extendable platform and the foundation for hybrid IT, Composable Infrastructure is designed with the capacity and flexibility to handle future generations of computing.

Jobs: You are Being Replaced

History shows us that over time, some aspects of jobs change and others remain the same. New technology will always have some effect on current jobs. Remember that those people who worked manufacturing the bugging whip found themselves employed by companies that were building cars.

For members of IT groups, Composable Infrastructure offers the opportunity to expand skills and perform more meaningful work. This technology brings them closer to achieving the DevOps model by further closing the gap between development and operations teams.

Data Security and Control

Data Security Will Be Better. The reality is that security risk will not change with the introduction of Composable Infrastructure. There will still be hackers and malware striving to breach the firewall. But the opportunity to anticipate threats and avoid/react to potential breaches will be improved because the agility with which the DevOps model will function.

Conclusion

The expedition into composable technology can feel like a culture shock, but the benefits are well worth the journey—from infrastructure as code to a fully DevOps driven environment, it's the next generation of data center evolution, where flexible hardware meets powerful software. To make the most of it, preparation is the key. It takes forward thinking, intuitive planning and an ongoing commitment that spans departments and roles.

As companies evaluate their entry into the next level of infrastructure modernization with composable, an expert third party can be a tremendous help. By enlisting professionals who can assess current infrastructure and develop a future-looking path, organizations can more confidently deploy Composable Infrastructure in a way that considers their growth plans, operational requirements and business strategies. In short, as companies seek to achieve and maximize the many benefits of Composable Infrastructure, the most successful likely won't go it alone.

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