CIO
FROM IDG

Drive relentless innovation in your business: Top 5 Considerations

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Boundless Agility

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The most successful businesses know that they can never sit still; they must constantly change and innovate in response to customer demands, what competitors are doing, the dynamics of market forces and the availability of new technologies.

And then, sometimes, change chooses you – like when a global pandemic hits and a business has to pivot most or all of its workforce to working remotely, while continuing to serve customers without skipping a beat.

So what are the top things you can do to kickstart a culture of innovation across your enterprise?

#1 Fail fast, fail often – and why that's good

The slogan "fail fast, fail often" has risen to prominence in the past few years. But what does it really mean? As children we are taught that every mistake is a learning opportunity – but we tend to forget that as life goes on and we strive for perfection.

Put simply, trying new things, failing, learning from it, fixing it quickly and moving on to the next thing is the essence of a constantly learning and rapidly iterating organisation.

Why is this needed? Because whether you like it or not, there is an accelerated rate of change occurring across every industry, driven by the pandemic. Companies must move quickly and change the way they've been working in order to stay relevant.

Innovation doesn't come from one 'ah ha!' moment – the best IT leaders understand that business success hinges on the ability to continuously iterate, reshape operations with automation and rethink how to extract value from data.

> **Innovation can only occur when a business can rapidly prototype…with the knowledge that the business' most sensitive information is securely protected and rapid changes won't risk a breach.**

Innovation happens when the right conditions are created for it to happen – and agile IT infrastructure is core to this.

#2 Partner with a cloud provider that supports rapid change

When your business is changing rapidly, you need an infrastructure partner that gives you maximum flexibility, rather than locking you into one strategy.

Oracle's scalable cloud platform provides provides real-time elasticity for enterprise applications.

However, where Oracle truly rises above other cloud providers is by combining Oracle's autonomous services, integrated security, and choice of private and public cloud deployment options.

Altogether, this means that IT can spend less time and money managing infrastructure. Business can achieve more efficiency from it's data assets.

Automation gives the business more time for all employees to focus on new ideas.

#3 Change is good, but disruption isn't

In an organisation with rapidly improving and changing products and services, the last thing you need is additional work in reconfiguring existing applications to work on cloud infrastructure. Oracle's exclusive automated migration tools make it easier and more cost-effective to move data into the cloud and put it to work quickly.

With many of the world's largest enterprises already running Oracle Database, a seamless move to cloud without rearchitecting would translate into major cost and time savings.

Likewise, large enterprises have distinct needs in areas such as data migration, systems management, data protection, interoperability, and performance.

With Oracle Cloud VMware Solution, IT teams can move or extend VMware-based workloads to the cloud without rearchitecting applications or retooling operations.

Once in the Oracle Cloud, customers can then also access the Oracle Autonomous Database and other Oracle Cloud services, to further modernize applications.

This protects the investment that has already been made in that technology while accelerating efficiency and

providing access to elastic resources and a full stack of cloud services for future expansion.

#4 Business moves fast: speed matters

Your business needs to be able to quickly respond to customer demands and expectations.

When your closest competitor starts delivering orders to all customers, the next day, or suddenly changes pricing strategy, your IT systems need to be able to agile and support process change and analytics needed for a rapid response.
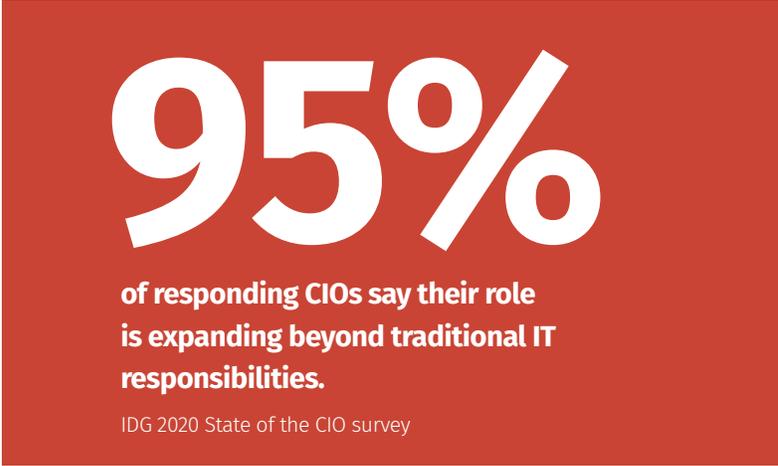
Your cloud platform must be high-performing to support your business in becoming more customer-responsive.

Oracle's global footprint of data centers in over 25 regions (or in your own data center with the new Cloud@Customer Dedicated Region) means your service infrastructure will always be close to you and your customers and workforce for low-latency, high responsiveness.

This is especially important for Internet of Things, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning workloads where data

is constantly being shuttled in and out of databases.

Oracle's Autonomous Database runs on top of Oracle Exadata Cloud Service, the world's fastest cloud database service. It is now even faster, supporting the latest Exadata X8M hardware and bringing the benefits of Intel® Optane™ Persistent Memory (PMEM) and Remote Direct Memory Access over Converged Ethernet (RoCE) to the Oracle Cloud.

95%

of responding CIOs say their role is expanding beyond traditional IT responsibilities.

IDG 2020 State of the CIO survey

#5 Stay flexible and adaptable

Public cloud? Private? Hybrid?
The question you should really ask yourself is: why limit your company to one type of cloud?

Being maximally flexible in your business shouldn't involve tying yourself to an inflexible policy around cloud.

Oracle Cloud Infrastructure is designed to support a high degree of flexibility for organisations that want to continue running workloads in-house, using a hybrid model.

Additionally, Oracle can run its full public cloud in customers' own data centres, putting public cloud infrastructure on the same LAN as customers' own servers for wire-speed performance.

Another important consideration: your data is yours.

Don't lock it in a cloud and hand the key to the provider, who charge you high prices for moving your data. Some make it encingly cheap to bring data in, but then lock it up with much higher prices to bring it out again. Oracle provides everyday low prices for both data ingress and egress, which means customers are able to move data in and out as it suits them. ■

Today's clouds are powered by Intel

Organizations today are under unprecedented pressure to adapt.

Challenges run the gamut, from scaling infrastructure to handle data growth to optimizing systems for AI workloads, guarding against evolving threats, and accelerating performance at every level. Driven by the need for more efficient and resilient infrastructure deployment, a growing number of enterprises have turned to cloud.

Cloud service providers (CSPs) also face these challenges, operating at hyperscale. Banking on its experience at the forefront of hyperscaling for cloud services for decades, Intel has met their needs.

Through co-engineering and business relationships with top CSPs, Intel has delivered five generations of custom silicon built for cloud scale. What's more, Intel's data-centric technology portfolio is engineered for use in data centers of all sizes.

Your top cloud providers are powered by Intel® Xeon® Scalable Processors.

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