

Laying the Groundwork for Next-Generation Applications with Oracle Open Cloud Infrastructure

Three Steps Toward Future Success through Simplifying Infrastructure



Delivering new functionality, lowering costs, and improving specific metrics—these are traditional goals of the IT organization. Today, these organizations are tasked with sweeping new responsibilities. Companies must now leverage an infrastructure that delivers new applications quickly. And any added services must be tightly connected to constantly shifting business requirements, which means that rapid deployment and adaptation are critical. Speed, flexibility, and responsiveness must work in concert to give the enterprise the agility necessary to thrive in an increasingly competitive landscape.

Infrastructure Executives in the Spotlight

For those infrastructure executives charged with cultivating agility, the pressure is mounting. Line-of-business leaders now think more like consumers and expect rapid roll-outs and smooth functionality. And, of course, there's no slowing the accelerating pace of technological transformation. In an effort to satisfy the business and keep pace with change, infrastructure executives have added point solutions to provide the business with

more functionality. However, the effectiveness of this approach has been blunted as it introduces more complexity and fragility.

The cloud is also calling—infrastructure executives are bombarded with questions about moving to the cloud and how it can help drive more business. But the cloud is no guarantee of success. In fact, up to 95% of private cloud initiatives are currently failing.

To navigate these changes and successfully add more agility to their companies, IT executives need to dedicate their efforts to overcoming three specific challenges:

- Escalating complexity
- Increasing fragility
- Rising Risk

Escalating Complexity

To build the most effective cloud software infrastructure, IT leaders need to assemble best-of-class components. Identifying, vetting, purchasing, and implementing these elements takes time and budget. Moreover, it pulls these experts away from strategic initiatives and puts them in the role of systems integrators.



76% of financial executives say the **cloud is crucial** to their business strategy.¹

The danger here is complexity. A growing mash-up of point solutions means more maintenance and the threat of obsolescence. With each phase of growth integration challenges escalate—there’s no certainty that new solutions will seamlessly integrate with existing systems. Complexity can also stretch the IT organization’s capacity by requiring the internal development of new and specialized skillsets and processes.

Increasing Fragility

Companies are increasingly reliant on a robust, responsive infrastructure to meet the needs of various lines of business. Yet, instead of a powerful engine that drives innovation, many organizations are saddled with an IT infrastructure that is focused on current operations. Each dollar and staff hour that goes toward maintaining the infrastructure status quo diminishes resources that could be used for strategic growth.

Even if infrastructure executives can cope with additional complexity, it’s difficult to find vendors who offer solutions that don’t require a costly and time-consuming redesign or replacement strategy.

Security and compliance are also perennial concerns. Adhering to various standards and safeguards adds stress to existing systems. Taken together, each of these factors contribute to the creation of a fragile infrastructure that isn’t up to the demands of the business or the challenges of the market.

Rising Risk

Each time a new service, device, or transaction is added to the world of IT, it heightens risk. This is true of on-premises infrastructure, and the risk-related challenges multiply when the cloud is in play. Many organizations have spent their time and energy on traditional threats, which leaves them without the tools or know-how to combat the entirely new set of risks involved with the cloud.

Risk is a hallmark of today’s business landscape, and the threats continue to multiply year after year. Unless companies are vigilant when moving business-critical applications to the cloud, there’s a potential for devastating damage. Criminal or state-funded cyberattacks can jeopardize profits and wreak havoc on brands and public opinion—or worse, shut down an entire corporation.

To successfully respond to these challenges, infrastructure executives must adopt a new approach, one that allows them to deliver the flexibility, adaptability and innovation the business requires through a common set of components on a common framework that works in a hybrid cloud setting.

Research indicates that **46%** of organizations say that they have a **“problematic shortage” of cybersecurity skills** in 2016, up from 28% last year.³



Simplicity: The Key to Agility

To unlock agility, IT organizations need to reduce the number of pieces used to build the infrastructure. This new, simplified approach can help companies:



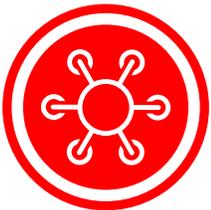
- **Accelerate Integration Intelligently**

Infrastructure executives need to avoid the temptation to turn into an ad hoc systems integrator. Instead, they should seek out solutions that are architected to fit the existing environment, preferably using a one-vendor approach that frees up time, energy, and budget.



- **Re-emphasize innovation to succeed**

IT leaders need to resist dedicating resources toward fulfilling changing demands in the current paradigm. By doing so, the IT organization can focus on innovation, which will meet and eventually exceed internal and external customer demands. As a part of a holistic approach to infrastructure, IT organizations should look for ways to quickly move workloads to an optimal platform.



- **Adopt a centralized approach**

This approach should also feature a way to manage all architectural layers (application, database, OS, and middleware) in a unified way. Centralization will help to consistently enforce rules, policies, and procedures with the added benefit of rapid remediation of security issues. By centralizing on new physical and virtual machines and leveraging standardized configurable templates, teams can patch systems quickly to avoid attacks.

By establishing a common set of components on a framework that works in hybrid cloud setting, companies can simplify and create an environment that's conducive to next-generation applications.



Taking Steps Toward Greater Agility

By pursuing these three steps, companies can create an “instant on” cloud experience that delivers flexibility, adaptability, and innovation.



1. Establish a Common Cloud Infrastructure

Step one is finding a partner that can serve as a single supplier. The ideal vendor will have already done much of the work and offer proven software solutions that come pre-certified. This allows companies to reap the rewards of open-source and focus their attention on delivery new applications and services that provide value to customer.



2. Deploy a Common Management Infrastructure

Cloud administrators have to deal with the complexity of providing secure computing and networking resources for a variety of stakeholders and a myriad of critical enterprise applications. Businesses looking to implement or even extend their private cloud should understand how to leverage a single, simple and unified cloud management solution, one that can be leveraged across private and public clouds. This unified solution should provide a single point of accountability and problem resolution.



3. Maintain a Consistent Gold Standard

The third step toward greater agility concerns risk and security. Using a single dashboard allows IT leaders to manage all layers, from application to database to OS, which automatically preserves a common configuration across all systems. This is critical as it helps IT teams see interdependencies within the overall environment, which means updates can be made without introducing new risk. Audits are easier, and compliance becomes far simpler as running reports and collection vital data takes the touch of a single button. This automation also extends to policy administration and helps maintain application viability, as well as dramatically reducing the scope of potential liabilities.

Read more in our complimentary white paper, [**Foundation for Open Cloud Infrastructure.**](#)

With Oracle, you will be able to create path to cloud by using your existing infrastructure that leverages proven cloud technologies. You will be able to operate your environment with less cost and effort, while ensuring a higher level of security and compliance. You establish a platform for innovation that addresses the evolving needs of your business without the pain of large investments in new infrastructure.