



5 Strategies for Transforming On-premises Infrastructure

FEELING THE PRESSURE TO MOVE CORE SERVICES OFF-PREMISES FOR THE WRONG REASONS?

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The business of IT continues to evolve, driven by cloud computing, big data, and mobility, and fueled by organizations looking to technology to deliver new innovations and reshape customer experiences. As a result, it is increasingly necessary for organizations to leverage the next generation of IT infrastructure. To do this, IT leaders must build a strategy for the future of IT services, while at the same time, they need to explore which consumption models will deliver the best value for the business.

In many instances, CIOs are pressured to seek off-premises solutions. While taking this route may be perceived as a convenient way to resolve limitations of existing IT infra-

structure, there are more significant benefits that can be realized by transforming your on-premises infrastructure.

This paper provides a checklist for IT leaders who are looking to build a strategy for the future of IT services and are considering their on-premises/off-premises options.

» **Need for Next Gen infrastructure**

The move to next-generation infrastructure is compounding, with a number of disruptive technologies rapidly taking center stage, such as mobility, data analytics, security, and hybrid cloud. Understandably, these technologies place a significant amount of pressure on IT to evolve its operations.

According to a June 2015 survey conducted by IDG Research Services, the top four IT priorities are:

- Boosting workplace productivity through mobile solutions
- Leveraging Big Data and analytics
- Protecting the organization’s digital assets and enterprise
- Transforming to an on-demand infrastructure to accelerate service delivery

» **Feeling the Pressure**

As the need to support business demands through next-generation infrastructure continues to grow, there is noticeable pressure on IT leaders to consider moving to off-premises solutions for perceived improvements in convenience and speed.

However, making a move isn’t always the best route as there are numerous pressures to keep IT services in house (see Figure 1 below).

Although businesses will likely continue to have a mix of on-premises and off-premises solutions, respondents expect

that less than one-third of their organizations’ IT services will be hosted off-premises within the next 12 months. They expect to increase off-premises deployments only slightly, by 7% over the next three years.

» **Building a Path Forward**

IT leaders are proactively looking to provide a level of convenience and speed for the line-of-business that requires a more agile infrastructure. More and more organizations are seeking ways to better integrate application development with IT operations to accelerate the application lifecycle (e.g., utilizing a DevOps model).

To make this transition successful, IT needs to bridge today’s applications with new technology, enhancing capabilities to support a new breed of applications and services that will drive new revenue and enhance customer experiences. The challenge is that business will want to deliver a constant stream of updates and improvements to maintain or improve the customer experience. A good example is mobile services, where updates commonly occur every few weeks, if not more often. The customer expectation is that there will be ongoing upgrades and new features. However, this places significant pressure on IT to move to a continuous delivery model from traditional, scheduled updates.

This accelerated operational model requires an underlying software-defined infrastructure that can eliminate complexity and time-consuming processes through convergence and automation. The way infrastructure is evolving presents a real opportunity for IT to move to the forefront in driving new strategic initiatives for the organization. IT leaders can now devote time and resources toward value creation, enabling the business to leverage technology to reshape experiences with customers, build competitive advantage, and compete in new markets.

» **Five Strategies for Transforming On-Premises Infrastructure**

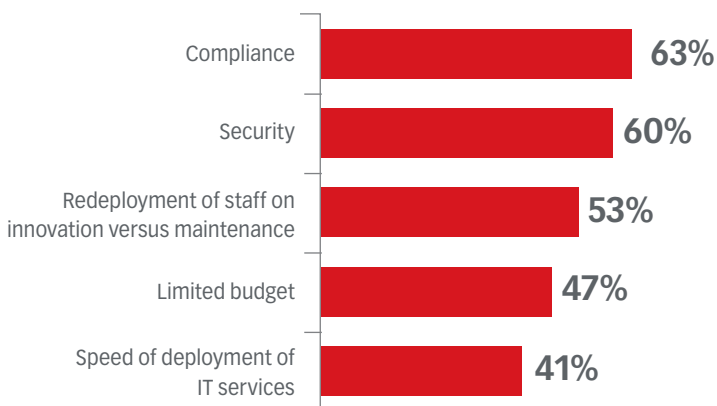
Transforming on-premises infrastructure can seem like a daunting challenge, but the payoff for IT and the added value for the business can be significant. The pressure to move services off-premises due to the limitations of existing infrastructure can be solved by a transformation strategy that achieves the ideal on-premises operational model, achieving both greater speed and efficiency.

For many organizations, the most practical strategy is one that can be implemented in phases to ensure that there is



FIGURE 1. **Top Drivers to Keep IT Services On-premise**

Which factors drive the decision to keep IT services on-premises at your organization?



BASE: 200 QUALIFIED RESPONDENTS

no disruption to critical services. An incremental investment approach allows measurable value to be added when and where needed based on strategic business priorities.

workload-centered approach, IT should leverage a modular architecture that converges servers, storage, and networking, and can be managed as one infrastructure.

Here are five strategies to guide the way:

1. ADOPT OPEN STANDARDS

Utilize open-standard based solutions to maximize your flexibility and simplify integration. As businesses look to next-generation services, it is critical that IT deploy technologies that work together seamlessly to enable the business to scale and adapt to market opportunities.

2. TAKE A WORKLOAD-CENTERED APPROACH

The goal is to get away from a rigid, siloed IT environment that requires too many manual processes and creates unnecessary complexity and downtime while bleeding staff productivity. Full convergence enables a single infrastructure with a single management platform that optimizes resource utilization and operations to increase IT efficiency while lowering costs. With a

A software-defined infrastructure provides IT control across the entire infrastructure through a simple interface that automates and accelerates operations.

IT can deliver resources the right way for applications while maximizing utilization, with no resources locked away in workload-specific platforms. The business benefits from a more agile and efficient IT that can deliver on-time with a better return on investment.

3. SEEK SOFTWARE-DEFINED SOLUTIONS

IT organizations need to deliver services at the speed of business. For this to happen, IT needs a simple, user-friendly way to control infrastructure and deploy applications. Management continues to play a critical role in the data center and often uses the most IT resources because of the complex tools and manual processes required to monitor compute, storage, and networking systems.

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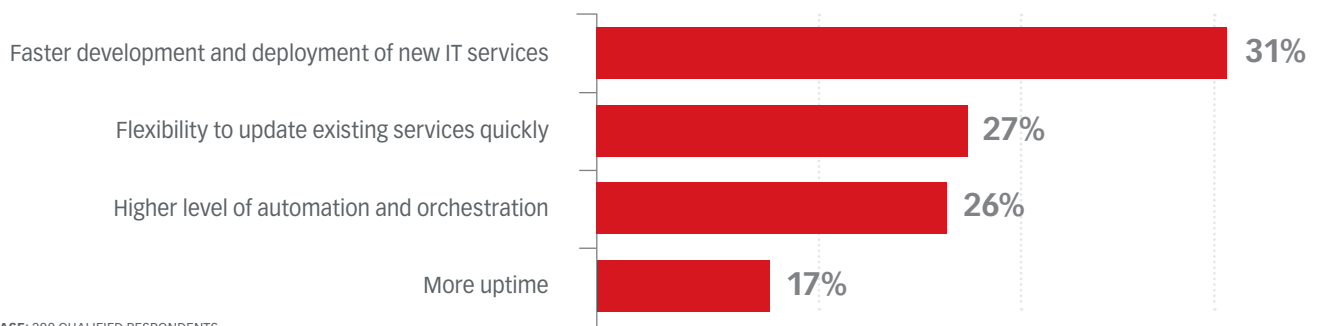
Addressing Expectations

As noted in a June 2015 survey by IDG Research Services shows that business priorities for IT over the next two years focus on speed and flexibility. As the landscape for business continues to evolve rapidly, IT will benefit from exploring new strategies and architectures that enable it to move at the speed of business.



FIGURE 2. Most Important Features of the Infrastructure of the Future

Percent of respondents who rated feature 'most important'



BASE: 200 QUALIFIED RESPONDENTS

and accelerates operations. Software defined solutions enable you to effectively coordinate and quickly make necessary changes so that you don't get bogged down by manual tools and processes. A complete lifecycle experience—from delivery to consumption, with the scale to support growth—accelerates your delivery of services and time-to-value.

4. FOCUS ON FLEXIBILITY

The need to easily scale existing infrastructure to accommodate peak usage or growth in services can add complexity, resulting in missed opportunities, so it is worth considering alternative ways for managing these recurring events. New IT consumption models offer enterprises a new way to procure and manage on-premises infrastructure with the flexibility and cost efficiencies of hosted cloud resources. With a flexible operating model, IT can utilize on-premises infrastructure to provide cloud-like scalability and consumption-based resourcing.

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architectures and delivery models that bridge existing needs while enabling the agile delivery of new applications and services.

5. GET A STRATEGIC PARTNER

The IDG survey noted that 98% of IT leaders engage with strategic partners to help them build out new services and transition infrastructure to take advantage of growth opportunities—most often in the areas of big data, cloud/hybrid IT, and security. To accelerate the transformation and achieve a successful outcome, IT leaders should leverage vendors with proven expertise to help build solutions that are truly optimized for their business.

» **Bottom Line**

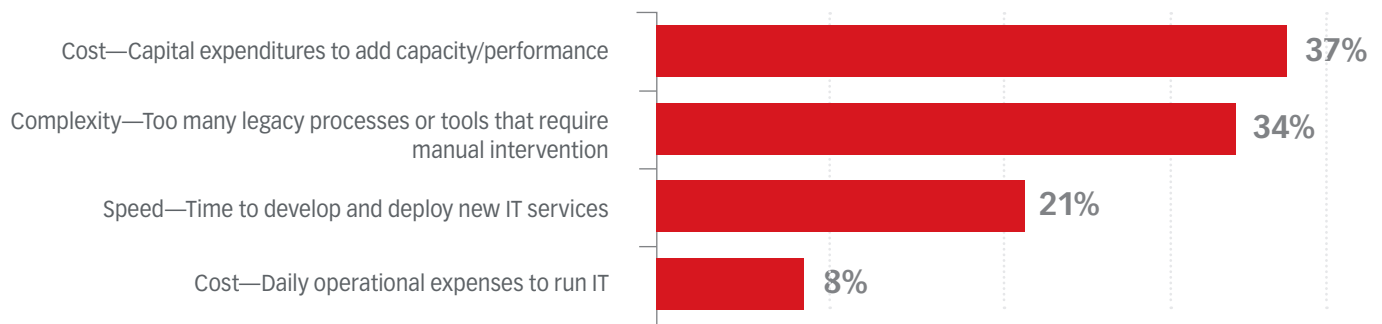
For IT to be a truly efficient to the organization, there are significant advantages in transforming on-premises infrastructure, including speed, convenience, and flexibility. Organizations need to look at new

To learn more about efficient infrastructure for next gen IT, visit www.hpe.com/info/BladeSystem



FIGURE 3. Challenges that May Inhibit the Improvement of IT Service Delivery

Percent of respondents who rated feature 'most challenging'



BASE: 200 QUALIFIED RESPONDENTS