

The Path to Bimodal IT: First Stop – Private Cloud

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Leverage Private Cloud to Extinguish Shadow IT

If you had to say something nice about the shadow IT trend, it's that good intentions are at the root of it. This is cold comfort if those well-intentioned efforts compromise your security or scalability by making end-runs around existing IT protocols.

Shifting from the traditional model of IT delivery to software-defined data centers (SDDCs) has emerged as the best method for eliminating shadow IT. SDDC, the underpinning of private cloud, offers great agility and responsiveness for IT organizations fending off the incursions into shadow IT a company's workforce makes when IT service delivery through proper channels is too slow or cumbersome a process.

And here's the thing about incorporating a private cloud into your IT infrastructure: There's no need to rip and replace the legacy architecture your company has invested heavily in over years of budget cycles.

That sound you hear is your CIO jumping for joy.

What Is Bimodal IT?

The research firm Gartner, in its industry-standard IT Glossary, has coined the term "Bimodal IT" to describe this process of addressing the need for exploratory, nonlinear, cloud-based IT (mode 2) while not abandoning the traditional, sequential systems (mode 1) your business already relies upon.

In bimodal IT, your legacy infrastructure is augmented with an SDDC-based private cloud. This model, IT as a service (ITaaS), integrates the cloud-first speed and scalability that allows your company to be more responsive. As a result, it eliminates the user impatience that is the primary motivation for adopting shadow IT.

The Importance of Integrated Systems

Successful deployment of SDDC depends on the infrastructure supporting it. The key term here is "integrated systems," converged and hyperconverged infrastructure choices that package the main components of the data center – server, storage, network – in a single, factory-assembled unit engineered to deliver the agility and scalability SDDC promises.

Integrated systems come in a variety of sizes and configurations, purpose-built for a variety of deployment scenarios. The range of options tends to be bookended by the following:

- **Enterprise-grade converged infrastructure offerings** – highly customizable infrastructure solutions designed to handle the gamut of data center workloads (inclusive of the most mission-critical, complex applications) deployed by companies with thousands of workers spread out over multiple geographies.
- **Hyperconverged infrastructure appliances** – compact, affordable and easy-to-deploy private-cloud-in-a-box offerings designed to deliver quantifiable units of SDDC capacity to provide core data center functionality or cloud-based support for specific workloads like virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) or DevOps environments.

In between, you'll find hybrid solutions that combine the simplicity and cost-effectiveness of the hyperconverged infrastructure appliance with the robust scalability and customizability of the enterprise-grade converged infrastructure option.

How to Transition to the Private Cloud

If your company is looking at integrated systems to support the transition to private cloud, you should consider the following criteria:

- First, find an IT infrastructure solutions provider that offers a broad family of reliable IT solutions that address both legacy systems focused on security and accuracy, as well as nonlinear, cloud-based systems. You'll be able to migrate some workloads to the cloud now while assuring your investments won't be in vain when you're ready to expand your cloud capacity in the future.



- Next, make sure the provider offers solutions with the agility to scale capacity up and down quickly as business needs demand. A high degree of automation will give you the responsiveness needed to stave off shadow IT.
- Finally, the integrated systems must be both simple and flexible. Because you will be working across platforms, the solutions you choose will need to allow for easy migration of workloads among those platforms. This requires robust management and orchestration capabilities to ensure the solution is responsive to your changing demands.

There's no question that moving from your existing data center architecture to a cloud model supported by integrated infrastructure can be a daunting prospect. However, it's a process that both Hitachi Data Systems and VMware have gone through ourselves, and, together as partners, we have led countless customers through similarly successful transitions leveraging the Hitachi Unified Compute Platform (UCP) family of integrated systems.

Conquer Bimodal IT With an Integrated Systems Approach

Foremost among the wisdom we've garnered along the way is the importance of adopting an IT infrastructure solution that offers centralized management, orchestration and automation tools for both legacy and cloud-based platforms. Planning a bimodal approach now with an integrated systems solution engineered to address the full range of Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 workloads through a single management interface gives you the flexibility to right-size your cloud transition at the outset and grow in a predictable manner.

Your converged or hyperconverged infrastructure choice is made easier by a bimodal approach because you can determine the precise compute, storage and networking capacities needed to serve your core business requirements today, knowing you'll have the flexibility to address changing requirements tomorrow. This can also lead to consolidation of more disjointed legacy platforms over time, which makes it easier to scale up capacity and increase operational efficiency for enterprise workloads.

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Fans of an incremental approach to private cloud will like the hyperconverged infrastructure (HCI) appliance. HCI appliances are built with commodity x86 hardware in a compact form factor, and the compute, networking and storage resources are pooled in a software-centric design. Not only are these HCI appliances fast and easy to implement, but also, they give your IT administrator the flexibility to scale those capacities precisely and quickly to meet new demand, simply by stacking them like building blocks in your existing data center.

Move to a Private Cloud With HDS and VMware

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We think this incremental approach is beautiful. The first time you watch your company quickly and easily scale up or down to achieve optimal capacity, within budget and without overprovisioning, you'll see the beauty, too.

Research the Right Cloud Model for Your Organization

Is your company ready for a full-scale enterprise data center solution? Are you looking to stand up satellite data centers in regional offices where you don't have a large IT presence on site? Do you want to provision a DevOps team with agile IT resources or dramatically improve your workforce's productivity with applications like VDI? For any of these scenarios, the right cloud model supported by the right family of integrated IT systems will put you on the path to conquering bimodal IT

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