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WHITE PAPER

hyperconverged infrastructure

Five reasons why hyperconverged infrastructure is the way to go

Expectations for hyperconverged infrastructure are on the rise. The concept of hyperconverged infrastructure urges businesses to redefine the way they procure, deploy and manage infrastructure. What are the reasons that drive these businesses to adopt hyperconverged infrastructure? Some are technical, some not at all.

1. No need for new IT specialists

Running a data center equals employing specialists for a rather large number of technologies and functionalities. The number of technologies that need support is growing quickly, but IT budgets do not necessarily take the same flight. Converged infrastructure allows for a new take on IT. It comes pre-tested and pre-installed, fully integrated, vendor-delivered, reducing the administrative burden on IT managers by fundamentally remodeling how systems are designed, deployed, optimized, maintained, supported and upgraded. The virtualization layer hides a great deal of the complexity to the operator. Hence, any business can run converged infrastructure without the heavy burden of recruiting and training new IT specialists.

2. Single point of contact

Hyperconverged infrastructure offers a combination of best-of-breed compute, storage, networking and virtualization from multiple vendors. But still there is one single point of contact, not only for the purchase and implementation of the solution, but also in the event of problems. In a hyperconverged infrastructure environment, there is no trouble with multiple vendors that pass on the hot potato to one another. In the case of converged infrastructure, vendor management becomes a straight-forward, transparent activity, since there is only one vendor to talk to.

3. Cost management

Hyperconverged infrastructure is all about adding simplicity, efficiency and scalability to the IT environment. Obviously, these advantages come

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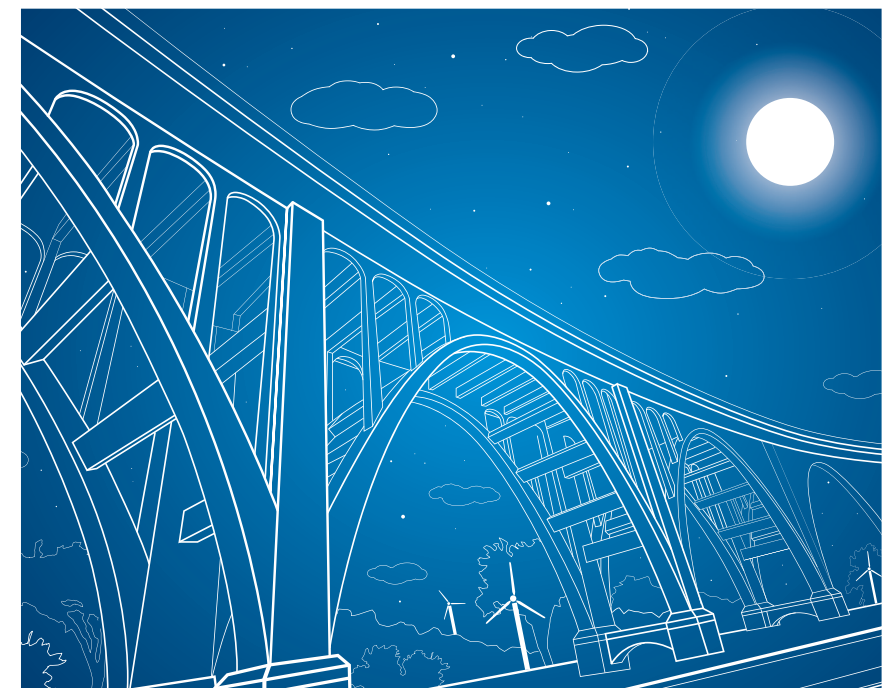
at a certain cost. And although cost reduction surely isn't the primary driver for hyperconverged infrastructure, it does offer a way to improve cost management for the traditional data center - and even cut some costs at the same time.

The main cost reduction is a result of the fact that hyperconverged infrastructure doesn't need expensive SAN, NAS or DAS hardware. As a consequence, costs for cooling, sparring and maintenance are being reduced as well. Even if the licenses for the underlying hypervisor of hyperconverged infrastructure are likely to take up quite a large chunk of the budget, the infrastructure's TCO still will be significantly lower compared to a traditional SAN configuration. Hyperconverged infrastructure allows a company to grow its storage capacity at the same rate its business is expanding. The company pays as

it grows, avoiding investing in storage capacity it won't be using right away.

4. Stepping stone to IT as a Service

Although hyperconverged infrastructure appears to be a block of hardware, it should in essence be seen as a service: a self-servicing platform. Hyperconverged infrastructure offers compute, storage, networking and virtualization services to



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the IT manager, making it a good start in setting up an IT as a Service strategy for a business. Using hyperconverged infrastructure, adding remote sites, new business activities or applications to the company's IT environment become a matter of minutes, instead of the weeks - if not months - that are necessary to order, configure and run new solutions in the traditional data center.

Hyperconverged infrastructure offers the perfect solution for mission-critical tasks. Storage and networking are virtually always available in an easily managed environment, guaranteeing max-

imum uptime. Hyperconverged infrastructure offers a solid alternative for the mission-critical applications that still run on nearly outdated and hard to support mainframe platforms. Hyperconverged infrastructure opens the door to IT as a Service, even for that type of mission-critical applications, offering all the performance requirements these applications need.

5. Best-of-breed and unified, yet open

At its best, hyperconverged infrastructure is not just a single system, but a platform based on standard building blocks. The use of standard equipment results in an open environment, providing more flexibility and agility to adapt the infrastructure to changing market conditions.

When choosing a hyperconverged infrastructure vendor, it is important to pick a solution that

provides validated and factory-based integration of best-of-breed compute, storage, network and virtualization technologies, complemented with unified management, end-to-end support, and life cycle management for the solution. The combination of all of these elements truly defines hyperconverged infrastructure. It is not the same as a reference architecture, which lacks the factory-based integration and validation, nor is it the same as a siloed system isolated from the increasingly general-purpose computing pool. Integration and openness are key, both in hyperconverged infrastructure, as well as to the rest of the data center. The openness allows the company to choose the latest innovations from market leaders in compute, storage, networking and virtualization, catering to the need of integration with powerful, third-party management tools.

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