4 Best Practices for Achieving the Full Benefits of Converged Infrastructure

New demands are coming in from the business every day, and you’re expected to meet them without additional funding or resources. This added responsibility lands on top of the fact that you don’t have the staffing, support, budget, technology and equipment to get your job done in the first place. Such is the life of the IT professional. You’re supposed to provide 100% uptime and availability without 100% support to achieve these goals.

Converged infrastructures are one way to meet these challenges “head on.” They deliver distinct advantages that can quickly pay off your initial investment and translate into real value. Forrester claims that budget constraints (59%), IT sprawl (46%) and time to provision (38%) are the top 3 IT challenges driving organizations to consider converged infrastructures. ¹

Review these 4 best practices and see how you can manage complex changes and improvements, respond successfully to challenging requests from management, and run your applications efficiently with a converged infrastructure solution.

1. SIMPLIFY EVERYTHING

The applications you support are becoming increasingly complex, as well as the technology and tools needed to run them efficiently. Managing an array of complex individual components can be time-consuming and costly.

However, automating the provisioning of all resources and monitoring your entire infrastructure from a single pane of glass can help you simplify infrastructure administration and management. A converged infrastructure provides extensive automation across a wide range of functions and system elements. This results in fewer manual, time-consuming and error-prone activities for your IT department.

IDC states that moving to converged systems can help reduce operations and management costs over time by automating management, and centralizing and consolidating the overall infrastructure. ²

**Advantage:** A converged infrastructure lets you serve customers faster without adding to your IT team and reduces the deployment phase for new applications by 25% or more. Convergence also allows you to monitor your infrastructure’s health and performance, and accelerate issue remediation.

2. REDUCE ENVIRONMENTAL COSTS

Most data centers, by design, consume vast amounts of energy in an incongruously wasteful manner. Most companies typically run their facilities at capacity around the clock, whatever the demand. As a result, data centers can waste 90% or more of the electricity they pull off the grid.

Compared to nonconverged infrastructures, convergence helps you to significantly reduce data center power, space and cooling requirements.

**Advantage:** Not only do converged infrastructures reduce your environmental footprint, but they also save your IT team from application sprawl. Converged infrastructures support sustainability and provide savings of 15% to 28% by improving data center efficiencies and reducing IT footprint.

¹ Forrester, Converged Infrastructure, Ready for the Next Phase, September 2013.
3. MAXIMIZE INFRASTRUCTURE RESOURCES

Shadow IT projects are putting the enterprise at risk due to cost inefficiencies from a lack of centralized, long-term planning, buying and support. They are also increasing IT complexity due to a lack of standards and silos of tech activity. Further, they are impacting security and application support.

Converged solutions can provide extensive automation that spreads the capabilities of existing infrastructure resources. A converged solution can increase the efficiency of applications and allow the business and end users to get what they need faster. Here again, Forrester states that 45% of IT decision-makers said centralizing IT resources was their top reason for adopting a converged infrastructure.³

**Advantage:** Convergence streamlines processes and enables you to deploy applications faster, manage your environment easier and utilize existing IT resources more efficiently. By allowing you to scale each resource independently, there are no wasted resources and the simplified management interface reduces IT tool requirements.

4. ATTAIN BALANCE WITH PAY PER USE

Tired of having end users go outside the business to acquire the additional IT resources they need? Shadow IT is undermining your ability to manage and control technology costs, productivity and security.

Pay per use helps you to simplify how your business units get those resources from within the company. With a cloud service delivery model, business units can easily pay for the resources they consume. This approach allows you to scale IT resources according to business demands and better predict costs.

**Advantage:** The pay-per-use approach lets you reduce the footprint of primary storage systems. You can also reduce operating and capital expenditures, simplify IT management and begin the path to a true information cloud. No more shadow IT.

“**Total worldwide spending on converged infrastructure will hit $14.3 billion in 2017.**” ⁴

A converged solution helps you take back control of enterprise IT. It gives you the flexibility to include certain shadow IT projects where appropriate. And it allows you to control the scope and nature of shadow IT to fit within your technology mission and company vision.

Download the white paper, *The Future of Convergence is Here.* See how to deliver application flexibility and cost transparency.

**One Platform. Zero Worry.** Want to simply management and support, enable continuous availability and scale to meet mission-critical business needs? Find out how HDS converged solutions can help simplify your processes by providing single-pane visibility of physical, virtual and cloud infrastructures today.

³ Ibid.