VMware Converged Systems Self-Assessment Checklist

Enterprise IT staff today can’t keep up with the constantly changing nature of business demands. They are always in catch-up mode, forced to make small incremental fixes that don’t solve the larger fundamental infrastructure weaknesses. Know the feeling? You’re not alone.

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

If you find your infrastructure is sub-optimal for business growth and productivity isn’t high enough to meet demand, this self-assessment checklist will help you see what you need to get the most out of a VMware converged solution.

- **CONSOLIDATE**
  
  For many businesses, infrastructure is seen as constraining rather than supporting business growth. And application sprawl is undermining IT’s ability to deliver on essential business requirements.
  
  A first step in creating a foundation for a converged infrastructure is to consolidate your IT environment. This means inventorying all existing IT assets along with an understanding of the performance characteristics for each. Here again, Forrester states that 45% of IT decision-makers said centralizing IT resources was their top reason for adopting a converged infrastructure.²
  
  **Advantage:** Consolidation of assets helps you simplify storage administration, optimize virtual server environments, increase capacity utilization and reduce environmental costs. **Check.**

- **VIRTUALIZE**
  
  A big consideration for business leaders is when and how to simplify their virtualized and nonvirtualized environments. And how to move from 50% virtualization to 90% virtualization.
  
  Virtualization allows you to improve IT services, increase efficiency, improve flexibility and reduce the cost of delivering services. To migrate business-critical applications to virtualized environments, you need predictable platform reliability.
  
  **Advantage:** It’s expected that server virtualization rates will increase from 50% to more than 80% over the next 3 years. Converged infrastructures save the time, expense and complexity around architecting, building, testing, deploying and operating virtualized infrastructures. **Check.**

- **AUTOMATE**
  
  Is your business experiencing delays in rolling out new products and services? Do you find your IT staff can’t respond quickly enough to the needs of the business? Your business can move much faster with improved automation.
  
  Extensive automation across a wide range of functions and system elements results in fewer manual, time-consumming and error-prone activities for your IT department. It also improves efficiency.
  
  **Advantage:** End-to-end automation enables IT staff to get more things done faster, and with fewer resources, saving your organization time and money. **Check.**

¹ Forrester, Converged Infrastructure, Ready for the Next Phase, September 2013.
² Ibid.
PAY PER USE

Tired of having end users go outside the business to acquire the additional IT resources they need? Use pay per use 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. **Check.**

"**Total worldwide spending on converged infrastructure will hit $14.3 billion in 2017**"  

VMware converged infrastructures are becoming the backbone of many businesses. If chosen correctly, they can reduce management and operational complexity, meet service level requirements for availability and rapidly provision new services.

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.

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