Hitachi Data Systems

HITACHI
Inspire the Next

How to Choose a Converged platform in 5 Simple Steps

The rise in demand for IT resources is putting mounting pressure on IT budgets and staff. This is causing increased management and operational complexity, growing service level requirements for availability, and the need for application flexibility and cost transparency.

To meet these rapidly evolving business needs, many IT managers are turning to converged infrastructures to support their VMware applications. From improved application performance and higher uptime, to quicker troubleshooting and faster deployments, VMware converged systems offer a host of benefits that can quickly pay off.

According to ESG Research, IT pros cited ease of management **(44%)**, faster deployment **(37%)** and improved total cost of ownership (TCO) as **the top 3 benefits of an integrated computing platform.**[1]

[1] Bowker, Mark, Bill Lundell and John McKnight, ESG Research Brief, Integrated Computing Trends, March 2011.

Hitachi Data Systems

HITACHI
Inspire the Next

Are you ready for converged systems?

5 Requirements you should look for in a converged infrastructure solution:

No. 1 Ready for Use

No. 2 One Platform for Physical and Virtual Environments

No. 3 Extensive Automation

No. 4 Extend Capabilities of IT Assets

No. 5 Open Architecture

No. 1 Ready for Use

Every new piece of hardware or software added to your infrastructure eats up valuable time and resources. In fact, IDC states that IT organizations spend **23.3%** of staff time and resources on presystem deployment.[2]

Your converged platform should be fully pretested, prevalidated and pre-integrated, with the flexibility to meet your needs, so it comes to you ready for use.

The right converged infrastructure lets you serve customers faster without adding to your IT staff budget. It also reduces your deployment phase for new applications by **25%** or more.

- ✓ Pretested
- ✓ Prevalidated
- ✓ Pre-integrated

[2] Villars, Richard L. and Jed Scaramella, IDC, Converging the Datacenter Infrastructure: Why, How, So What? May 2012.

No. 2

One Platform for Physical and Virtual Environments

Using different tools to manage physical and virtual environments can create inefficiencies as administrators jump from one management tool to another. You end up spending your resources acquiring skills for a variety of tools.

The ideal solution supports both virtualized and nonvirtualized environments within a single converged stack. Your converged platform should integrate directly into the IT infrastructure management systems IT already knows and uses. The platform should allow you to manage your converged infrastructure without having to learn 3rd-party orchestration tools. IDC claims that IT decision-makers using converged systems cited fewer management tools and improved IT staff efficiency as the top benefits of convergence.[3]

Using one platform allows you to monitor performance fluctuations and workloads across your entire IT environment to provide a deeper understanding of the business impact of data center operations. It also delivers the level of information needed to make intelligent decisions about where virtualization and consolidation can have the biggest impact.

- ✓ Supports both virtualized and nonvirtualized environments in a single stack
- ✓ Integrates with your existing management tools

[3] IDC, Converged Systems Survey, July 2012.

No. 3

Extensive Automation

With today's increased IT infrastructure complexity, it's not uncommon for businesses to experience delays in rolling out new products and services. Without proper support and resources, your IT staff can't respond quickly to business needs. With improved automation, your business can move faster.

Extensive automation across a wide range of functions and systems results in fewer manual, time-consuming and error-prone activities for your IT department, and improves efficiency. 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.[4]

End-to-end automation enables you to deploy applications faster and manage your environment more easily. With an automated orchestration tool, you can manage and administer both virtualized and nonvirtualized infrastructures, not just 1 or 2 elements.

- ✓ End-to-end automation
- ✓ Centralized and consolidated infrastructure

[4] IDC Technology Assessment, The Adoption of Converged Systems and Their Impact on Enterprise Storage Purchasing, 2012.

No. 4 Extend Capabilities of IT Assets

For years, IT organizations have been adding servers, storage and networking devices to keep pace with applications and the terabytes of data they generate. Over time, these IT resources became locked up in countless technology silos, each devoted to a particular application or line of business. The result: more budget is spent on operations and IT's inability to quickly deploy new services.

With the right converged infrastructure, you can extend the capabilities of existing assets to monitor your physical and virtual environments, identify issues and rapidly remediate them. Forrester states that **45%** of IT decision-makers said centralizing IT resources was their top reason for adopting a converged infrastructure.[5]

Extending the value of existing IT assets to provision, monitor and protect your infrastructure with new capabilities improves IT efficiency.

Adds new capabilities to existing IT assets to provision, monitor and protect your infrastructure

[5] Forrester, Converged Infrastructure, Ready for the Next Phase, September 2013.

No. 5 Open Architecture

Without open architecture, migration can be complex, time consuming and error prone. Interoperability and scalability can also suffer. Make sure your converged infrastructure supports the operating systems you need and the applications you use.

According to ESG, because more companies are running multiple hypervisors, having the right converged infrastructure is going to be critical to advancements in your business. The ideal converged system should be designed to integrate with different hypervisors to avoid vendor lock-in and enable multi-hypervisor IT solutions. ESG also claims that **65%** of today's organizations are already running multiple hypervisors for both business and technical reasons.[6]

The converged platform allows seamless integration with various hypervisors and 3rd-party orchestration frameworks, security partners and service delivery platforms, enabling IT to work with a single, familiar tool.

- ✓ Supports your operating systems
- ✓ Supports your applications
- ✓ Integrates seamlessly with different hypervisors, 3rd-party orchestration frameworks, security partners and service delivery platforms

[6] Bowker, Mark and Bill Lundell, ESG Research Brief, Multiple Hypervisor Usage Trends, December 2012.

Hitachi Data Systems

HITACHI
Inspire the Next

"Total worldwide spending on converged infrastructure will hit **$14.3 billion** in 2017." [7]

Want to simplify management and support, enable continuous availability and scale to meet critical business needs?

Find out today how HDS converged solutions can help simplify your processes by providing single-pane visibility of physical, virtual and cloud infrastructures.

See Customer Proof Point

Looking for more information on Converged Infrastructures?

Learn more at the Hitachi Data Systems Knowledge Hub.

Visit The Knowledge Hub

7 IDC, Worldwide Integrated Systems, 2014–2017 Forecast: March 2014.

Hitachi Data Systems

Corporate Headquarters
2845 Lafayette Street
Santa Clara, CA 96050-2639 USA
www.HDS.com community.HDS.com

Regional Contact Information
Americas: +1 408 970 1000 or info@hds.com
Europe, Middle East and Africa: +44 (0) 1753 618000 or info.emea@hds.com
Asia Pacific: +852 3189 7900 or hds.marketing.apac@hds.com