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Key Take-Aways from Gartner's Infrastructure & Operations Summit – December 2019

"The Future of Enterprise Data Centers, and What's Next" was one of the many informative sessions at the Gartner Infrastructure and Operations Summit held in Las Vegas in December 2019. IT infrastructures will continue to evolve faster than ever before, and a common question is whether data centers will evaporate into the Cloud.

Great Infrastructure and Operations leaders simplify complexity to bring clarity of vision, speed, cost-savings, security and direction. In today's fast-paced world of business, speed and acceleration define success, and data centers are the engine of the business.

Businesses are demanding growth, speed, agility, innovation, and efficiency, and the list of technologies that can now be used are endless: Cloud Computing, Edge Computing, Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Software-Defined, Automation, AIOps, Hyperconvergence, etc., etc.

Enterprise data centers must adapt and evolve fast to meet these growing needs, moving from an isolated, complex, manual, inefficient environment to one that is hybrid, intelligent, automated, and efficient.

Key trends shaping the future of data centers include moving from the Centralized, On-Premises Data Center, to Distributed and Hybrid Cloud Environments -- putting each workload into the environment that provides the best results. Moving from inefficient and costly to efficient and cost-effective, from manual to intelligent and automated, from internally complex to simplified and standard are the objectives.

To begin achieving these efficiencies and improving performance, IT management must now re-consider their decision making – to no longer purchase that next new piece of hardware, software, and peripherals, but rather run in an environment that is provided for them, and Service Levels are meant to guarantee performance. Keeping the 'wheels-on-the-bus' and maintaining critical workloads is crucial, thus determining where these applications can be run most efficiently; i.e., in a collocated environment, in the Public Cloud, in a Private Cloud, and/or by being supported in a Managed Services/Hosting environment.

The consideration of Hybrid IT means putting the workload where it can run most efficiently, especially in using consumption-based models.

It is important to establish a long-term focus on efficiency, agility, and innovation. To begin, it is recommended that a hybrid IT workload placement strategy is developed and utilize managed services providers to ensure operations are running smoothly and efficiently so that IT can deliver sustained and continuance improvements to the businesses they serve.

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