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Does the Cloud-Native Have to Mean All-in?

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redhat.

Cloud-native application architectures promise improved business agility and the ability to innovate more rapidly than ever before. However, many existing conventional applications will provide important business value for many years. Does an organization have to commit 100% to one architecture versus another to realize true business benefits?

There are indeed “cost and performance benefits of greenfield, extreme scale cloud-native applications running on highly standardized, automated infrastructure.” However, bringing in the bulldozers to replace all existing infrastructure and applications isn’t an option for very many businesses. There’s too much investment and, even if it were an option financially, the disruption involved in wholesale replacement would likely offset any efficiency gains.

It’s also worth observing that the goals and relevant metrics for traditional IT systems, especially in regulated industries that deal with highly-sensitive data, are typically also different from cloud-native “systems of engagement.” Traditional systems prioritize characteristics like reliability and stability over the rapid introduction of new capabilities and features. To be clear, cloud-native

architectures can and are being designed and implemented to reliably perform traditional “systems of record” functions. But it’s more typically the benefits that cloud-native can bring to the development of new applications and types of applications (such as mobile) that’s driving the interest in most enterprises. (And we see this dynamic reflected, for example, in OpenStack’s initial focus on cloud-native workloads rather than replicating all the features of enterprise virtualization.

So what should enterprises do given that “many if not most of their core mission-critical applications are supported by conventional architectures,” It comes down to three things:

The first is modernization. Just because a traditional IT infrastructure and application portfolio isn’t being radically reinvented using OpenStack, containers, and microservices design principles, doesn’t mean that it should be encased in amber and ignored. There are many incremental paths to improve efficiency and agility of existing environments.

One is continuing to move from old proprietary environments to modern open source ones like Linux. This is a well-mapped migration path with full support for every step of the transition. It lets you enhance IT performance, and increase flexibility—all at a reduced cost.

Applying agile application development

and deployment practices, DevOps, is also important. Open source plays a key role in DevOps both as a source of innovative tooling and as a model for the iterative development, open collaboration, and transparent communities forming the culture that DevOps requires to succeed. DevOps is probably more associated with cloud-native application development but it can also benefit existing IT even though the tools and the pace of pushing code deployments will likely differ between the two environments.

Ansible, recently acquired by Red Hat, is an example of a DevOps tool being used by organizations even in their more traditional environments. Ansible provides a simple automation language for application infrastructure automation from servers to virtualized cloud infrastructures to containers. Ansible provides a path to DevOps for a broad class of enterprise users including both DevOps teams demanding agile practices and fast provisioning as well as business units which require simplicity above all else.

Finally, even while recognizing the differences between traditional and cloud-native environments, it’s necessary to build a bridge between the two. Red Hat provides a variety of tools to do so. Red Hat CloudForms automates and unifies infrastructure management, service brokering, and monitoring across a hybrid



environment with policy-based controls. Red Hat also offers software-defined storage that can span multiple environments so that a consistent view of data can be provided to any application requiring it. JBoss middleware has messaging and business rules management to integrate new applications with existing data sources and business workflows.

Certainly, there are an incredible number of exciting new technologies and approaches that apply primarily to cloud-native infrastructures and application development. And forward-looking enterprises should be experimenting with them—at a minimum—as part of transforming themselves into digital businesses. But this transformation must also consider the world as it is and the huge investments that they've already made in IT. And shepherd that investment into the future wisely.



Chicago builds ETL toolkit for open data

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Data officials in Chicago are churning out open datasets faster than ever by using technology rather than developers to get the job done.

About a year ago, the city government embedded Pentaho Data Integration (PDI), a graphical extract-transform-load (ETL) tool with pre-built and custom components to process big data, into its OpenData ETL Utility Kit. The kit provides several utilities and a framework to help governments extract data from a database and upload it to an open data portal using automated ETL processes. Before working with PDI, city workers updated datasets manually, said Jon Levy, open data program manager at the Chicago Department of Innovation and Technology. “Most of it was custom-written Java code and that just became difficult to maintain, difficult to enhance because it required a very complicated skill set,” Levy said.

That also meant Java developers were spending time on updates rather than writing applications that could help city workers and residents, added Tom Schenk, the city’s chief data officer.

“What’s different now is we have a framework that can be easily used by a lot of people,” Schenk said. “I could also give that tool to a number of users around the city of Chicago and they’d

to be able to program ETLs that are going to be easier for them to understand, easier for them to create. It allows us to be more nimble.”

For example, the city was able to tap into an application programming interface (API) that monitors water quality at Lake Michigan beaches and uses ETL created with PDI to push the information out hourly.

More recently, an organization used the city’s open data to create a map-based app showing where people need permits to park in Chicago, Schenk said. Real estate agents now can show what residential parking looks like in a given area – a task that would have taken considerable manual effort before, Levy added.

The two officials also use the information to perform advanced analytics and to merge data to develop predictive models. And every time something is uploaded to the portal, they get email notices. Other features include a log to track what’s happening in the portal and a tool that lets users monitor how long it took to run ETLs over time to diagnose problems.

Chicago’s toolkit is free to download. To set it up, IT managers must configure about six options to orient it and direct it to their portal. From then on, every time an ETL is needed, a base template exists. “Probably the most complex thing of all is to write the code to extract data from a

server,” Schenk said. “At that point, you work with a database administrator, who gives you the SQL code or whatever it might be, you extract it from a server and then you configure about four specific things, such as what dataset is this called.”



Philippine Non-Profits Fuel Their Mission with NetSuite

By: Rubie Grace Casana
Product Manager -ERP /CRM

SAN MATEO, Calif. and MAKATI CITY, Philippines, Nov. 4, 2015—NetSuite Inc. (NYSE: N),

The industry's leading provider of cloud-based financials / ERP and omnichannel commerce software suites, today announced three new Philippine nonprofit customers that are managing mission critical operations like accounting, ERP, social impact reporting, grant management and nonprofit business processes unique to their organizations with NetSuite. Cartwheel Foundation, Virlanie Foundation and Microventures Foundation are streamlining business processes, improving reporting both internally and with donors and gaining better insight into their organizations to help focus on their core missions.

All three organizations received the NetSuite solution as a software grant from the NetSuite.org corporate citizenship program, which offers free and discounted subscriptions to qualified nonprofits and social enterprises. Since its founding in 2008, the NetSuite.org corporate citizenship program has empowered more than 500 nonprofits and social enterprises with tools to amplify their impact in making the world a better place. To learn more about NetSuite's corporate citizenship programs, please visit www.netsuite.org.

With the software offered through Net-

Suite.org's donation program, nonprofits and social enterprises achieve a wide variety of efficiency gains, including:

- Increased efficiency and productivity. NetSuite.org grantees (the nonprofits and social enterprises that are receiving a software donation) have dramatically reduced the time and expense required for routine management of their organizations, eliminating manual processes and freeing valuable resources to pursue programs that better benefit their mission.
- Optimizing project and grant initiatives. Real-time visibility into budgets vs. actuals enables NetSuite.org grantees to make data-driven decisions on the best projects to pursue, optimizing impact and avoiding the bad decision making that can result from outdated or contradictory information.
- Increasing fundraising effectiveness. With NetSuite, organizations achieve a 360-degree view of their constituents, increasing donations from individuals and institutions, improving accountability and building long-lasting relationships.
- Accelerating growth. Using NetSuite, grantees are scaling their operations to more regions and reaching more

beneficiaries and geographies, capitalizing on real-time visibility, flexibility and cloud mobility.

Cartwheel Foundation, Virlanie Foundation and Microventures Foundation are among the growing number of Filipino nonprofits benefiting from donations of NetSuite software.

Cartwheel Foundation (www.cartwheel-foundation.org), based in Mandaluyong City, is a nonprofit organization focused on nurturing indigenous Filipino heritage through culturally relevant education. Founded in 1999, Cartwheel Foundation began by opening a pre-school for indigenous Talaan dig children in Miarayon, Bukidnon in southern Philippines. The organization has since expanded its services to implementing programs for indigenous communities in various parts of the country, such as early childhood education for young learners; life skills and capability building for adult learners; and scholarship and leadership programs for youth who want to pursue a college degree. In total its projects have reached 11,000 indigenous people in 40 indigenous communities.

As it scaled up its efforts, the organization had to deal with voluminous data and multiple transactions that were becoming increasingly challenging to manage using its old system. As such, the Cartwheel team realized the clear and present need



for a more efficient, integrated system that would support the organization's growth. After an implementation in March by NetSuite Solution Provider IT Group, Cartwheel Foundation is now using NetSuite to run financials and donor management. NetSuite's unified system has given the nonprofit easy, intuitive access to its expansive data, bringing all projects and budgets into a single location, while providing greater visibility into performance and a foundation for future improvements. Already, Cartwheel Foundation has seen an estimated 50 percent reduction in administrative tasks as duplicate tasks and manual reporting have been significantly reduced, while staff are quickly building up expertise with NetSuite's intuitive, easy-to-use interface. "Because of the ease of access to the system, we can see the possibilities for future programs," said Pia Ortiz-Luis, Executive Director. "There's a sense of readiness among the staff that we can reach out to a wider audience and work with our partner indigenous communities. In a real sense NetSuite brings us closer to our goal of operational excellence."

Virlanie Foundation (www.virlanie.org), based in Manila, was founded in 1992 to care for children in need of special protection, including the poor, the abandoned, abused, exploited, neglected and orphaned. Virlanie Foundation operates eight residential homes, serving approximately 200 children each, with outreach, support and sustainability programs. It implemented NetSuite to replace a disparate system of QuickBooks for

accounting and separate Excel or Access spreadsheets for each of its programs. The disparate systems left the foundation with inconsistent data and cumbersome manual processes that made timely reporting a challenge. In some cases it could take up to a week to generate a report on a single child. With the help of NetSuite Solution Provider PGE Solutions, Virlanie implemented NetSuite in 2014 to manage mission critical business processes, including financials and real-time reporting and has created a customization to track the children it serves and their sponsors. As a result, Virlanie can now provide real-time KPIs to its employees through personalized dashboards and provide detailed information to sponsors about the children they've made donations to support. NetSuite's anywhere, anytime access also means that social workers in the field for the outreach program can quickly and easily enter data into the system. In the second and third phase of the project Virlanie plans to migrate its accounting and finance to NetSuite and then integrate its fund raising initiatives.

"NetSuite's unified system means we have a single source of information that provides us with real-time data on our finances and the children we serve," said Dominique Lemay, Founder of the Virlanie Foundation. "As a result our donors have more confidence in knowing where their money is going and we are able to serve more children, more quickly."

MicroVentures Foundation, Inc. (MVF) and MicroVentures Inc. (MVI) are the

organizations behind Hapinoy (www.hapinoy.com). Hapinoy is a program that works with more than 4,000 micro-entrepreneurs in the Philippines. These micro-entrepreneurs usually run small neighborhood retail stores known as sari-sari stores. MVF leads the training, community and capacity building efforts of Hapinoy while MVI is focused on providing innovative mobile technology-based business opportunities for the micro-entrepreneurs. Together, Hapinoy aims to empower these micro-entrepreneurs to manage and grow their businesses sustainably. There are currently 1 million such stores in the Philippines and Hapinoy's goal is to provide them with the resources necessary to build a sustainable business through business training and capacity-building initiatives. After struggling with visibility into budgets across its many projects, specifically identifying expenses and reporting, both internally and to donors, Hapinoy, with the help of PGE Solutions, implemented NetSuite to manage its financials, expense reporting and donor tracking. NetSuite's unified system and real-time data access also means that management can make better business decisions while providing donors with accurate, monthly reports tracking donations, costs and budget. Overall, the solution also enabled the organization to be more cost efficient especially as they were able to perform accounting activities in-house, reducing the need for outsourced services. Not limited to the accounting functions, Hapinoy will soon be able to use NetSuite for data gathering and storage. This will efficiently



eliminate the need for additional data gathering software for their community management and market research activities.

“With NetSuite we are able to provide on-demand insights for decision making,” said Jalu Go, Director of Operations. “We can see if a project is working or not from a financial perspective and decide if we are going to move forward with the project. It’s allowing us to serve our constituents much faster and more effectively.”

“These three organizations are doing important, meaningful work in the Philippines,” said James Dantow, NetSuite Senior Vice President for Worldwide Support and General Manager for the Philippines. “We’re very pleased to be able to support their efforts through the NetSuite.org program and look forward to their continued success and good works.” Today, more than 24,000 companies and subsidiaries depend on NetSuite to run complex, mission-critical business processes globally in the cloud. Since its inception in 1998, NetSuite has established itself as the leading provider of enterprise-ready cloud business management suites of enterprise resource planning (ERP), customer relationship management (CRM), and ecommerce applications for businesses of all sizes.

Many FORTUNE 100 companies rely on NetSuite to accelerate innovation and business transformation. NetSuite continues its success in delivering the best cloud business management suites to businesses around the world, enabling them to lower IT costs significantly while increasing productivity, as the global adoption of the cloud accelerates.

About IT Group



IT Group, Inc. (ITG) has been established since 2003. As an enabler and partner of businesses in technology service innovation, we are focused on solving the challenges faced by growing businesses through the synthesis of information, insight, talent and technology.

With years of experience, ITG has developed and managed projects ranging from enterprise application implementation and deployment, development or building of mission-critical applications.

We can provide businesses with capabilities and advisory to help you on them on a regular or occasional needs -- an expert who can get big problems solved immediately, and who can help you make important technical decisions and choices.

We have a good knowledge of what is actually happening in the industry -- which technologies, platform, practices and products are being used successfully, so that you aren't sorting through vendor claims on your own.

We pride ourselves not merely on our technical proficiency, but on the integrity and ability to understand and communicate. We provide the best options and solutions to clearly communicate these technology options to our client, so as to enable them to make the best use of their resources.

Our Core Business

CONSULTING & SYSTEM INTEGRATION

- IT Infrastructure
- Service & Network Planning
- Enterprise Architecture
- Information System (IS) Operational Analysis
- Business Process Re-engineering
- Technical Systems & Network Design
- Maintenance Planning

SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT

- Web Design & Development
- Intranet/Extranet Portal
- Custom Application Development

ENTERPRISE APPLICATION DEPLOYMENT & IMPLEMENTATION

- IT Service Management
- Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP)
- Customer Relationship Management (CRM)
- Business Intelligence (BI)
- Database Management / PostgreSQL
- Red Hat Enterprise Linux
- JBOSS

ENTERPRISE CONTENT MANAGEMENT

- Web Design & Development
- Document Management System

MANAGED SERVICE & OUTSOURCING

- Server & Desktop Management
- Web Maintenance
- Search Engine Optimization
- Social Media Strategy Development
- Staff Augmentation | IT Outsourcing

TRAINING & CERTIFICATION

- Red Hat Enterprise Linux
- PostgreSQL
- Pentaho Business Intelligence Bootcamp
- JBOSS
- JAVA Application Development (Entry-level & Advanced)

Supported Technology Framework



Strategic Business Partners



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