Data Center Trends

Two major trends - big data and cloud computing - have pushed many organizations to reconsider their data center architectures. As a result, these firms are initiating projects to migrate legacy data center technology to modern (usually cloud-based) platforms, to consolidate data centers via virtualization, or to do both. The goals are typically to cut costs, to become more agile, and to prepare for coming data volumes and application demands. While the results of cloud platform migration and consolidation are highly desired, the process to get there often takes years of work and tens of millions of dollars. This is a scenario where the journey is not the reward; firms want to complete the migration journey as quickly and cheaply as possible.

Migration to a modern cloud architecture (e.g. VMware on x86) can be costly and slow for several reasons. The entire new cloud architecture must be designed and built, applications must be ported or rewritten, data must be copied, and extensive tests must be completed successfully. If consolidation is also in the plans, then apps and data from multiple data centers won’t move on a one-to-one basis, and system consolidation effects must also be tested and handled. Of course, throughout this process, legacy data centers will continue to operate as they run the business. In fact, the existing systems and centers can severely delay the testing of the new private clouds; old and new tend to be tightly bound together, which causes project dependencies that result in extra time and cost.

Delphix Streamlines Platform Migration

Since database porting and testing consumes a large percentage of the cost and time of platform migration, database virtualization can deliver significant benefits to a migration program. Delphix has been used to cut the overall program time of migration and consolidation projects by up to 50%, and the infrastructure costs by the same amount. In one cross-European data center consolidation project, Delphix is being used to eliminate 2.5 years from a 4-year program, while also cutting the project costs by nearly 65%. Delphix does this by breaking the tight - usually very brittle - linkage between the legacy and new platforms, usually x86 in a private cloud. This enables project teams to perform much more work in parallel, resulting in faster, cheaper projects with better results.

Delphix Accelerates Migration From Legacy to the Cloud

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Benefit: Cut Infrastructure Cost
By making the data in legacy databases available as virtual databases in the target data centers, Delphix can eliminate redundant infrastructure used for testing on the new platforms. Without Delphix, most organizations acquire not only the target hardware, but also additional systems for development and cutover testing. With the Delphix Agile Data Platform, most additional hardware can be eliminated, resulting in enormous savings over the life of the migration project.

Benefit: Improve Test Quality
Using traditional migration methods alone, testing teams often do not receive timely or comprehensive database copies, and can only perform limited tests. Moreover, ongoing operations at the legacy data centers may limit test cycles in the new centers. Firms may find themselves with embarrassing outages after cutover, despite significant project timelines. With Delphix, comprehensive and up-to-date data is only a click away. As a result, project teams can test sooner, can test more often, and can test more extensively, without delaying project schedules.

Benefit: Eliminate Cutover Delay
Serial migration processes between legacy and new data centers often add years to the life of a modernization project. By enabling many of these test and cutover processes to run in parallel, Delphix can instead cut years from a major migration project. This results in lower costs, of course, but also means that firms can attack new business opportunities much sooner. Reducing a migration or consolidation project by a year or more can enable major revenue gains.

Summary
Organizations that are planning cloud or platform migration projects should consider Delphix data virtualization to cut major cost and time from the plan. Delphix helps to bring projects in sooner and more cost-effectively by giving project teams greater flexibility and agility. The result is a shorter time to innovation, and greater revenue opportunity.

To learn more, contact us at info@delphix.com