Top Five Use Cases for Cloud Computing

USE CASES

Development and testing: Biomni, a managed services leader, hosts dev/test in the cloud to quickly create, experiment, and deliver new products to its customers.

Extend Existing Applications: Creative Solutions in Healthcare is accelerating deployment of applications with the cloud, at a third of the cost and a fraction of the time.

Disaster Recovery: The city of Avondale, Arizona is protecting critical-business applications, databases, and Web servers with the cloud, reducing capital expenses and simplifying deployment and management.

Web and mobile applications: Built.io, creator of innovative digital solutions, provided the platform running on vCloud Air to power the VMworld mobile event application for 1 million users.

Cloud-hosted desktops: BDP International, a global logistics provider, is hosting virtual desktops in the cloud, reducing capital expenses and simplifying deployment and management.

Cloud computing provides on-demand access to much-needed IT resources. When public cloud is combined with hybrid cloud capabilities, you get the flexibility of using a common platform, networking, and management across your on- and off-premises environments. As public cloud adoption continues to gain traction, the most common question is not "Why public cloud?" but "How do I get started?"

Whether you're already on your way or just starting out, consider evaluating the following five use cases for cloud computing.

Development and Testing

Setting up complete life-cycle environments for development and testing can be time-consuming and costly. Many IT departments can't keep up with business demand for dev/test environments, and as users bypass IT to procure their own public cloud services, IT is losing control of—and visibility into—IT resources. Moving development and testing to public cloud is an easy, fast, and cost-effective way to gain on-demand capacity for a limited time period.

VMware vCloud® Air™, built on the trusted foundation of VMware vSphere®, leverages the same platform that you already run in your onsite data center. This ensures that application testing will provide the same results that you would get in your data center. Seamless interoperability gives you the freedom to develop and test workloads in the cloud and move them back onsite for production or as your requirements change. vCloud Air enables you to simplify and unify your development, testing, and production environments.

Extend Existing Applications

When evaluating the costs of deploying, managing, and upgrading existing applications, IT is looking for more cost-effective alternatives. Even as IT budgets tighten and project timelines shrink, IT still needs to provide reliable delivery—often while managing geographical expansions, seasonal traffic, or hardware upgrades. Extending applications to the cloud can provide a scalable, cost-effective solution.

vCloud Air supports the thousands of applications and dozens of operating systems certified to run on vSphere—so you can test and run your applications in the cloud with no changes required. Stay in control of your workloads using the same tools and processes you use today, without sacrificing custom settings that are needed in your environment. Take advantage of bidirectional application portability while maintaining the security and compliance settings of your current VMware environment. vCloud Air provides a compatible, compliant solution for managing your most critical applications.

Disaster Recovery

Most organizations know that they need to protect their business-critical information to minimize downtime in the event of outages, failures, disasters and other disruptions. But not all companies have the budget, expertise, or time to develop a comprehensive disaster recovery plan. Although disaster recovery is a top IT priority, the expensive nature of deploying a disaster recovery plan often makes it an unobtainable goal. Disaster recovery in the cloud is emerging as a compelling alternative due to the flexibility in commitment, capacity, and cost.

INDUSTRY PERSPECTIVE

According to an IDG survey, 33 percent of IT budgets will be spent on public cloud within the next two years.

Email/collaboration (59 percent), customer-facing Web applications (50 percent), and customer relationship management (47 percent) are the top three applications that are being considered for deployment in the cloud.

Source: IDG Research Services: Public Cloud Adoption, 2015

vCloud Air Disaster Recovery provides an easy way to get started with an effective disaster recovery plan—without having to purchase hardware, hire and train new specialists, or invest in a secondary physical site. The service provides a simple, secure, automated process for replicating and recovering applications and data in the case of a local disaster or disruptive event. vCloud Air Disaster Recovery is built on vSphere, providing full compatibility with your onsite vSphere environment. You can protect any virtualized application without custom integration or implementation.

Web and Mobile Applications

Many organizations are shifting to deliver high-quality, next-generation Web and mobile applications to their end users and customers. These applications are typically data-intensive and need the elasticity to scale to handle demand and sudden, unpredictable spikes in traffic. Users expect to access applications and data from a variety of sources, on a variety of devices—anytime, anywhere. The cloud is designed to meet these requirements.

With vCloud Air, you can deliver reliable Web and mobile applications that integrate seamlessly with onsite service dependencies. With a single unified hybrid platform to integrate self-service infrastructure and application services, you can develop, deliver, and manage your applications—regardless of location or tier—with the capacity and resources necessary to achieve high levels of performance and reliability. vCloud Air enables you to freely relocate any workload while avoiding potential dependency-based configuration and network-access issues.

Cloud-Hosted Desktops and Applications

The legacy desktop is going through significant change. End users are more remote than ever before—often working from home, on the road, or in branch offices. And they are accessing corporate resources from a variety of devices. IT is under immense pressure to enable this new mobile workforce without sacrificing security and control.

VMware Horizon® Air™ Desktop and Horizon Air Apps, running on vCloud Air, simplify the delivery of desktops and hosted applications as a cloud service to end users on any device, anywhere, at an affordable price. IT can rapidly provision desktops and hosted applications in just a few clicks without the complexity of traditional desktop virtualization. End users get Windows desktops and hosted applications from the cloud on any device, including tablets, smartphones, laptops, PCs, thin clients, and zero clients. IT can reduce upfront costs and lower desktop total cost of ownership with predictable cloud economics, without sacrificing enterprise requirements for security and control.

Get Started

vCloud Air enables you to seamlessly extend your data center to the cloud while leveraging the same network, security, management, and skills you already use in your on-premises vSphere® environment.

To learn more about the top use cases for vCloud Air, visit http://vmware.com/go/startingpoints.

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