

GTSG's notes from the

Gartner Data Center, Infrastructure & Operations Management Conference

7 - 10 December 2015 | Las Vegas, NV

Last week, over 2,000 data center professionals converged on Las Vegas for the Gartner Data Center Infrastructure & Operations Summit. GTSG is a Gartner client because we value the insight gained from the 230,000 client interactions the research firm learns from each year.

It's impossible to summarize the input from 115 Gartner sessions and many more vendor presentations, along with the 120 exhibitors in attendance. What follows is a short summary of a few of the key themes, followed by our view of the value we can bring to a client wrestling with these issues.

Enterprise Defined Data Centers

The typical enterprise will have- and indeed, many already do have- workload running in multiple sites: on-premise enterprise owned, private cloud, public cloud, colocation sites, DR sites, micro/edge data centers.

In a perfect world, Infrastructure and Operations Management will centrally operate, orchestrate, automate, configure, and provide governance from one place.

Dave Cappuccio: it's all about "Services delivered from the right place, for the right price, from the right platform." It's not about the physical on-premise data center.

GTSG has – for years- helped enterprises to determine what runs where based on application profile, availability, recoverability and latency requirements, cost considerations and governance concerns.

Non-stop Demand and IT Service Continuity

The demands on the data center will continue to grow. The rate of I/O traffic growth outstrips that of storage, network, or server.

Superstorm Sandy taught east coast clients that the issue was not “DR”. The issue was that “some services need to be always on.”

Remarkably, 70% of surveyed clients have had to declare a disaster in the past two years.

An Enterprise-Defined Data Center can provide a network of data centers, not all necessarily at Tier 4, which assure that a service or set of services is always available. Cloud and co-lo can play a key role in the placement of these workloads and interconnection.

From its inception, GTSG has helped clients to provide service continuity. We are acutely aware of the different approaches and techniques which enable Service Continuity, High Availability and Disaster Recovery. Different techniques support each objective.

Edge Computing

Exploding I/O requirements accelerated by the Internet of Things create the demand for preprocessing close to the Edge.

Distributed colocation centers are ideally suited for edge data center placement.

GTSG has exceptional levels of experience in architecting and enabling complex enterprise data center configurations, particularly in latency intolerant and data-intensive environments.

Bimodal IT

Ultimately, digital business is driving the need for bimodal IT: the percent of an organization's revenue coming from digital business will more than double in five years.

This creates the competing needs for improved risk management, which is further stressed by the increased need for agility.

Not everything needs to be agile: knowing the balance is essential to success.

Since its inception, GTSG has helped organizations to meet the need for responsiveness to the business, while maintaining the right level of process controls.

Containers

No individual technology topic was more in demand than containers. Tom Bittman noted a doubling of interest over the past six months.

Containers have been around a long time, but now they are aimed at developers. Enhancing agility, they have a particular appeal to Mode 2 of Gartner's Bimodal IT.

Most will be deployed on VMs and many in IaaS clouds. Infrastructure & Operations personnel will need to be able to support containers and governance tools.

For nearly thirty years, in the most complex of environments, GTSG has supported virtually every tool that found its way into production. Containers are an increasing part of development life, and according to Gartner will be part of many steady state operations by 2018. We will be there to support them.

Mainframe usage continues to climb

The only question is by how much.

The data is clear: there is a steady pattern of increased processing demand which is independent of the price per unit, or the number of new machines sold.

The mainframe is where GTSG began in 1987. Workload continues to increase, yet skills availability becomes more challenging. GTSG has a full range of creative solutions for every size of mainframe shop.

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GTSG's perspective: we gained insight on some topics, and confirmation on others from a much greater sample size.

We hope this helps. If you'd like to discuss any of these topics with us, call us at 1.877.467.9885.