Will Private Cloud Beat Out Public Cloud?

Posted by meggebrecht - 2009/06/22 14:29

Platform Computing showed off a private cloud offering today at the Securities Industry & Financial Markets Associationâ€™s Technology Management Conference in New York.

The grid computing specialist is hoping that the software, called Platform ISF and slated to launch this fall, will capture business from bigger organizations, which may not be eager to adopt the public cloud computing model.

In a statement, Platform--a popular name among big financial firms--refers to a report from Gartner analyst Thomas Bittman: â€œAppropriate investments in private cloud computing will make it easier for enterprises to gradually use public cloud services as needed, if and when the services mature.â€•

While Platform is claiming that companies should start out with a private cloud before moving some of their resources to a shared infrastructure, some observers arenâ€™t so sure that will happen. Yes, you gain serious economies of scale with offerings from, say, Amazon or Google, but security concerns and control issues loom large.

For mid- to large-sized enterprises, will there be a clear winner here? Or is Platform right, and the answer is a hybrid approach?

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Re:Will Private Cloud Beat Out Public Cloud?

Posted by jrajani - 2009/06/22 14:59

Any move away from existing IT infrastructure must be structured around sound project management principles. Regardless of the type of cloud, the organization has to be sure that the personell behind the change buy into the concept of cloud computing and are ready to deal with the sea change such a move will bring in both the business and IT process from a day to day perspective.

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Re:Will Private Cloud Beat Out Public Cloud?

Posted by Bill Wilson - 2009/06/22 15:04

For a medium or large company with large datasets and a large number of transactions the only viable option is a private cloud. Data - especially operational data from large data warehouses will need to be classified as private, secure, and public. Only then can some data classified as public - ie if it were hacked by an intruder - be moved to a public cloud.

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Re:Will Private Cloud Beat Out Public Cloud?

Posted by Mel Duvall - 2009/06/22 17:55

I find the whole discussion around private clouds distracting, in that by its very nature cloud computing suggests that someone else takes care of hosting, running and managing the applications or infrastructure. A private cloud is more about how to architect your internal computing resources differently. Is it just me, or does it make sense to make room for both in the clouds?

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Re:Will Private Cloud Beat Out Public Cloud?

Posted by meggebrecht - 2009/06/22 21:23

Mel, I'd certainly agree that there's room in the cloud for both models.

But I'd like to point out that no less an authority than the National Institute of Standards & Technology includes the private cloud as one of the deployment models in its working definition of "cloud computing" -- which is on version 14, if anyone's counting. The others are the community cloud, public cloud and hybrid cloud.

Here's what NIST says about private clouds:

"Private cloud. The cloud infrastructure is operated solely for an organization. It may be managed by the organization or a third party and may exist on premise or off premise."

The emphasis is mine.

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Re:Will Private Cloud Beat Out Public Cloud?

Posted by jrajani - 2009/06/22 21:33

Don't forget that enterprises will probably have to connect with the government cloud to get services such as Tax data transfer etc in the near future. In a recent trip to VA at the GTRA conference there was a lot of talk about interfacing with the public and private entities using a secure government cloud by most every agency that was represented.

I'd say our economic recovery is probably going to come in the form of companies investing heavily in figuring out a successful cloud strategy: Public/Private/Government/Global, etc.

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Re:Will Private Cloud Beat Out Public Cloud?

Posted by Bill Gerneglia - 2009/06/23 08:06

It all comes down to internal IT efficiency - internal IT departments want to make fundamental operational changes so that they behave (and especially appear to behave within the company) and provide similar benefits as cloud computing providers. By doing this they operate efficiently by adopting a SaaS model to the rest of the organization.

This in turn can lead to corporate culture changes where IT is viewed as a service provider enabling the adoption of the latest industry best practices. This leads to more competitiveness in the delivery of goods and services across all business units.

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Re:Will Private Cloud Beat Out Public Cloud?

Posted by latonm - 2009/06/23 17:10

It will be interesting to see what approach the Feds take on cloud computing given President Obama's emphasis on cybersecurity and his emphasis as well on ensuring all the various agencies collobrate on technology use.

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Re:Will Private Cloud Beat Out Public Cloud?

Posted by Mel Duvall - 2009/06/23 18:50

I'm not saying I don't see the basic benefits of a private cloud, but I do question the business case. Massive economies of scale make cloud computing attractive for both the operator of the cloud and the end user. A company like Amazon.com can take a gamble on cloud computing because the potential market for its storage and application services is huge. It remains to be seen whether corporations are willing to make the massive up-front investment required to gain economy of scale, particularly in this economic climate.

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Re:Will Private Cloud Beat Out Public Cloud?

Posted by caragarretson - 2009/11/04 09:23

My understanding of private cloud architectures is they make a lot of sense up front, but since they require the IT dept. to act as service provider to corporate departments, I wonder how many are set up to operate that way? How many IT depts. know how to do metering and billing for usage, guarantee SLAs, provide customer service, etc....all the things that IT depts. expect from their service providers? It sounds like a great ideal, but practically speaking it's probably a stretch

for most IT depts. today.

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Re:Will Private Cloud Beat Out Public Cloud?

Posted by Bill Wilson - 2009/11/05 08:54

Cara makes a good point, why introduce more overhead into your IT department? If you trust that public cloud computing is secure then why try to recreate this environment within your company when you can purchase these cloud services for much less than the cost to build.

A cost conscience CIO will buy not build.

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Re:Will Private Cloud Beat Out Public Cloud?

Posted by Bill Gerneglia - 2010/02/08 11:08

A very interesting development in Cloud computing as the National Science Foundation and the Microsoft Corporation have agreed to offer American scientific researchers free access to the companyâ€™s new cloud computing service.

A goal of the three-year project is to give scientists the computing power to cope with exploding amounts of research data. It uses Microsoftâ€™s Windows Azure computing system, which the company recently introduced to compete with cloud computing services from companies like Amazon, Google, I.B.M. and Yahoo.

These cloud computing systems allow organizations and individuals to run computing tasks and Internet services remotely in relatively low-cost data centers. The since the cloud runs on a MS operating this seems like a viable way for MS to get some traction in this fast growing space.

I understand that some of the scientific applications can generate about a terabyte of data per minute. Your cloud better scale to handle a datastream like that.

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Re:Will Private Cloud Beat Out Public Cloud?

Posted by ronkost - 2010/02/08 14:44

This is an interesting question since it has come up now a few times on this site. Looking at Chris Kemp's interview on this site http://www.ciozone.com/index.php/Cloud-Computing-Video/Interview-with-Chris-C.-Kemp-CIO-NASA-Ames-Research-Center.html
it may not be an issue of "Beating Out" but maybe working within both dynamics...
From the interview:
"And so Nebula is an open source cloud environment that is typically deployed in a hybrid configuration. So it's deployed inside the firewall. And it's intentionally standards oriented. So, as standards begin to evolve, we'll be able to ensure interoperability, portability, and manageability, to really promote the security that's required in order to host the environments that we're going to see hosted in the cloud today and in the future."

Clearly this could be viewed as a pilot program for other federal agencies.

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Re:Will Private Cloud Beat Out Public Cloud?

Posted by srw134 - 2010/02/08 17:06

I believe that most companies are going to limit their deployment of cloud solutions to those private to them as this at least gives the perception of additional security. This will slowly change over time but certainly will not be immediately for most companies. Another issue which is going to become a problem is available bandwidth. While many companies do have large amounts of bandwidth available to the Internet they pale in comparison with the amount of bandwidth available within the corporate network.

-sean

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Re:Will Private Cloud Beat Out Public Cloud?

Posted by skwhite - 2010/02/11 12:32

I agree,Ron.
Very astute observation !

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Re:Will Private Cloud Beat Out Public Cloud?

Posted by rlgreen - 2010/02/15 09:35

As you point out, Ron, Chris Kemp has made some very interesting statements in his interview about the future of cloud computing in corporate and government settings. He sees the hybrid cloud as making available specialized 'value added' services to a company's internal cloud capabilities. This could range from sophisticated context-sensitive spell checking (from Google for example) to external data sources, etc etc. For me, the most refreshing part of Chris' interview is the notion that the government is demonstrating real leadership in applying technology (Clouds, Open Source e.g.) - for a more 'traditional' govt approach look at our Air Traffic Control system, IRS IT, etc.

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Re:Will Private Cloud Beat Out Public Cloud?

Posted by Bill Wilson - 2010/02/16 07:59

Agree, and it is especially encouraging to see the Fed IT departments embracing open source solutions in this context. I am not against proprietary solutions by any means but when a competitive open source alternative is available to the US government and the solution is matured and can be properly secured then we should embrace it.

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Re:Will Private Cloud Beat Out Public Cloud?

Posted by caragarretson - 2010/02/16 08:03

If open-source software is truly cheaper than commercial or custom-built software (and I know there are maintenence and customization issues) I think the government must embrace it, both to help cut costs and to promote open source as a viable choice.

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Re:Will Private Cloud Beat Out Public Cloud?

Posted by srw134 - 2010/02/17 02:17

Open source solutions are always appealing as they (in theory) cost less and thus should be deployed more. The problem with this has been reliability and support. Hopefully, heading down the road these solutions will continue to earn respect and allow companies to implement them without completely retraining their staffs.

-sean

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Re:Will Private Cloud Beat Out Public Cloud?

Posted by sediga - 2010/03/11 08:26

I agree that at least in theory, open source is cheaper. Support is important though. As far as cloud is concerned, I am hoping that open source will ensure that standards and best practices are adhered to. Whatâ€™s the point of a standard

when vendors donâ€™t take it too seriously?

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Re:Will Private Cloud Beat Out Public Cloud?

Posted by srw134 - 2010/03/13 00:00

I think a good operating model would be for a company to work with the open source product but offer a well designed support system. This way they can utilize the open source product and offer packages which allow them to help companies implement the services and offer support and security after deployment is complete.

-sean

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Re:Will Private Cloud Beat Out Public Cloud?

Posted by sediga - 2010/03/14 17:45

I tend to agree, but the only problem with open source is that there could be many different competing versions that are not compatible. Not sure how you can solve that though: one on hand, you have open source which will drive the industry, but you could have many different versions by different groups. One the other hand, you have standard committees that can fight over which standard is better, and you fall into the SOA-syndrome (too many standards and no one really prevails).

It really is tough. In my opinion, the QPID messaging standard was very well delivered and organized. A number of companies got together, and came up with the standard. The name of the parties gave it creditability, and they released a version that they had built into open source as the base line. Now, QPID is mature, and many organizations including messaging vendors have adopted it.

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Re:Will Private Cloud Beat Out Public Cloud?

Posted by srw134 - 2010/03/20 23:41

Well hopefully it is something that people can truly collaborate on a keep their differences to a minimum through good open initial conversations. Everyone always has their own priorities but if they could be added in a way which was easily extendable then it work work perfectly as the people with various priorities could develop things independently and still interoperate with the core product.

-sean

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Re:Will Private Cloud Beat Out Public Cloud?

Posted by sediga - 2010/03/22 10:21

I would like to see some of the work from GGF (EGA) making its way to the cloud. Tons of work was done there, and it was mostly convergence of SOA and Grid. I do believe that thatâ€™s where we need to go â€“ SOA+GRID!

The most interesting and required framework needs to be the JSDL (Job Submission Description Language), which can be used to distinguish jobs that belong to the Grid, and oneâ€™s that would not benefit from it.

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