

CIO guide: Top 5 reasons you should pass on PaaS

Tired of the pressure to move to the cloud? Use these responses to stop your antagonists in their tracks.

Let's set the record straight

This "cloud" thing has always seemed like it was just a bunch of hype and now I'm sure of it. The "cloud" was just to lure you in because now it's not good enough to just move to the cloud. Now I'm hearing, "Oh you moved to IaaS, but the real value is in PaaS." Seriously, nobody is improving or changing their business through PaaS.

What's wrong with the traditional model of deploying and managing your own data center and then building apps, testing and tweaking them until they finally work? And the idea of leveraging the scale and expertise of someone whose primary business is managing IT infrastructure? How much sense does that make? And now with PaaS you have a proven platform? Come on, that's just too much for this guy to buy into. Even the analysts have gotten into the hype. Gartner says that "by 2020, a corporate "no-cloud" policy will be as rare as a "no-internet" policy is today."¹

The pundits say you need to modernize your IT systems and that the future of IT is in the cloud, but didn't we just update everything for Y2K? How often do we need to do this dance? They will tell you that how and where work is done is changing and that your current environment can't support it, but do we really "need" to support this work anywhere, anytime and from any device movement?

The next time someone asks you to look at moving your business to the cloud, tell them you have five reasons to pass on PaaS.

1. You think old apps on new hardware achieves app modernization

This whole "app modernization" thing is being blown totally out of proportion. You've been using the same old apps since your Y2K patches went into place and they're working like a charm. As soon as you complete your IaaS "lift and shift," you can sit back and reap the benefits of app modernization. Bring on mobile and IoT, you've got it covered.

But you and I both know that a lift and shift to IaaS is no different from parking your broken-down old car in a new garage and expecting it to run like new. The environment may be nicer but you still don't have a luxury ride. The move to PaaS is a move to modernization and an opportunity for you to update your apps to take advantage of and support new technologies while differentiating yourself from competitors.

2. You think, a platform of integrated solutions is too easy and will turn your mind to mush

There's nothing like mental burpees and lunges to keep the IT staff on their toes. An end-to-end integrated platform is fine for the other guys, but you want to make sure your team is sufficiently challenged and that they are exercising their brains. In fact, you're the kind of leader who likes to hand them the puzzle but hide a few key pieces first. While the competition is rolling out innovative, new applications your team is troubleshooting errors.

But, you and I both know it doesn't have to be this way. With PaaS, the service provider delivers the networks, servers, storage, OS, middleware, database and other services to host your application. With the infrastructure taken care of, you can focus on developing applications that will differentiate you in the market. The service provider delivers the reliable, consistent platform that has been designed and thoroughly tested.

1. Gartner press release, June 22, 2016, <http://www.gartner.com/newsroom/id/3354117>

3. You think waiting five weeks for a VM to be turned up builds character

They say that patience is a virtue and you agree. What better way to build character than to request a VM turn-up and then sit on your hands waiting for it to happen.

But you and I both know that with a PaaS environment, you don't even have to think about infrastructure management and sizing. Your environment can flex and shift as business needs dictate, and you only pay for what you use. Try that with your onsite data center, where you spend significant time and resources trying to manage for the peaks and valleys of your business. IT resources try to forecast and predict capacity needs and deploy the right amount of infrastructure to support demand. When it works, you look brilliant, but when it doesn't it can spell disaster as often no amount of scrambling will allow you to recover.

4. You think, it's fun to be the super hero, swooping in just in time to save the organization from cyber threats

Admit it, you like the idea of the blue tights, red cape and a big yellow "S" on your chest. Viruses, malware and ransomware are no match for you. Alarms go off and you spring into action to identify, isolate and resolve the threat. Sure, sometimes you're too late and the data is compromised, but, hey, you can't be everywhere at once, and that user should have been following the corporate backup procedure. Your theory is that there are so few of us left on this old technology that the hackers won't waste time on us.

But you and I both know that's not how it works. Hackers know how vulnerable old versions of OS are and they are exploiting them. They know that many enterprises haven't moved their key applications to up-to-date, supported frameworks and applications that reside in the cloud on platform services, and receive frequent updates and security patches. PaaS and app modernization position you to take advantage of the latest technologies and close the gaps that have existed for years in older applications. New apps allow you to have security by design to support mobile, IoT and other new technologies.

5. You think this year's budget may be even bigger than last year's, significantly outpacing your spend

It happens every year; you anxiously await the release of the budget for the new fiscal year. It's like waiting for Santa Claus, isn't it? How much more money will they heap upon you. Last year your budget was so fat you haven't been able to spend it all and are planning to give some back. You can only hope that this year will be just as good, as you dream about how to grow your spend.

But you and I both know that IT budgets are shrinking and demands are growing. Everyone is being asked to do more with less. It's not enough to just continue to provide the services you have in the past. You need to change and adapt to new technologies, threats and business models. This means new investment and building an ROI to support it. PaaS makes you more agile and can help you with that ROI. You can deploy apps quicker, making the business more productive and getting ahead of the competition.

Deploying a PaaS solution starting to sound better?

Microsoft has the most comprehensive, end-to-end PaaS solution available in the market and Avanade is the right partner to take you there. Learn more about how Avanade can help you develop and implement a strategy to modernize your IT through Cloud Transformation.

www.avanade.com/en/solutions/cloud/cloud-transformation



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