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Bharani Kumar Kulasekaran

Achieving datacentre agility



“By optimising resources, data centres can dramatically reduce their hardware, software and maintenance costs.”

Bharani Kumar Kulasekaran, product marketing manager, ManageEngine

➔ Conventional data centre infrastructure is very rigid and takes a lot of time for both provisioning and expansion. Converged infrastructure can solve this though by integrating critical components of IT such as network devices, servers and storage devices and a single management framework.

Most enterprises rely on their data centres to offer services to internal and external users. The rise of converged infrastructure brings immense benefits to the data centre.

Provisioning and scaling services

Data centres must be more agile to meet growing business needs. The conventional infrastructure is very rigid and takes a lot of time for both provisioning and expansion. Each and every service delivered to users involves intense network, server, storage and application configurations and usually takes months to set up.

Today, however, businesses don't have the luxury to wait for such long periods. Thanks to converged infrastructure—which integrates critical components of IT such as network devices, servers and storage devices and provides a single man-

agement framework—the result is faster service provisioning and expansion.

Optimising resources

Converged infrastructure adopts blade servers and fabrics, which are very small in size and rack mountable yet are equivalent to physical servers and network devices, respectively. Blade servers and fabrics consume very little floor space and power compared with physical devices, and that feature reduces costs.

Converged infrastructure adopts technologies such as server virtualisation, storage virtualisation, SDN and much more. Although these technologies increase the agility of a data centre, they also tend to underutilise the hardware resources and result in IT sprawl. By optimising resources, data centres can dramatically reduce their hardware, software and maintenance costs.

Achieving SLAs

SLAs are very important and determine the success of the services delivered. The discrete items such as network, server and storage are converged into a single physical entity that is easy to manage and far less likely to fail. And when failures do occur, they are much easier to fix in a converged infrastructure, as the admin just has to remove and troubleshoot the blade server that had the failure and insert a new one.

Reducing management complexities

Converged infrastructure shouldn't be managed in the same way as conventional infrastructures. In a conventional infrastructure environment, each and every device is managed as a discrete entity. When managing a converged infrastructure, by contrast, the management software should be intelligent enough to understand the same mapping available inside the converged infrastructure and manage the resources accordingly. Only then can this infrastructure be managed better and optimised for performance. ●