A periodic newsletter with links to blogs and industry news for subscribers to the Architecting IT blog.

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A Tale of Two Conferences

As we enter 2017, many people look back at 2016 and attempt to predict what might happen with technology during the coming year. The past isn't always a good reflector of the future (hence the disclaimers on many UK financial institutions' advertising), however it does do some good to look at where we've been as an indicator of where we are headed.

During the first week in December 2016, I attended HPE Discover in London. It's unusual for me to attend a major tech conference in the capital and unfortunately the ExCel centre isn't the most ideal location, being so far east of the centre of London. With the demise of Earls Court, in the future it will be our only option, so we need to get used to it.

While HPE Discover was on in London, Amazon Web Services' re:Invent was taking place in Las Vegas. Attending one conference while watching the news from another was a fascinating combination and reflects the position both companies are at in the market.

AWS continues to move on like a juggernaut and even brought one on-stage to demonstrate their new "Snowmobile" technology. Meanwhile, over in London, there was a sense at Discover that HPE was regrouping and not really sure of their next step as a business.

Hardware vs Services

Where HPE continue to focus on hardware with Synergy and the ability to use their server, networking and storage components like LEGO, AWS continues to focus on services, releasing new features on a bewildering basis. HPE's new focus on IoT seemed to confuse many of the invited bloggers (sorry influencers) in understanding exactly what the overall strategy has become. Meanwhile, over in Las Vegas, AWS' strategy is simple - the company wants to rule the IT world.

The Architect's View

AWS (and Amazon in general) have a vision and they aren't going to stop until it is achieved, irrespective of the views of the market. The company cares little for stock market sentiment (and never has), focusing on the business at hand. HPE feels like a more slimmed down, but not meaner version of its former self. With many of the core businesses being spun off in the next 12 months (software, services) then most of what's left becomes an infrastructure story. AWS are demonstrating that people simply don't care about the hardware any more. They want services.

I think the coming 12-24 months will see more "mergers" like that of Dell & EMC, as the old industry tries to shore up their business through consolidation.

Unfortunately AWS (and Azure) seem to be winning this war of attrition and I can't see it changing unless something radical happens in the market.

What do you think?

Chris Evans

New Architecting IT Blog Posts...

- [HPE Demos 3PAR With Intel Optane (3D-XPoint)](#) (12 December 2016)

New Storage Unpacked Podcasts...

- [Garbage Collection: Implementing a Multi-Vendor Storage Strategy](#) (29 November 2016)
- [Soundbytes 004: Discussing HPE Storage at HPE Discover with Marc Farley and Matt Leib](#) (8 December 2016)

Other Blog Posts...

- [Who Needs Traditional Storage Anymore?](#) (Juku.it, 9 December 2016)
- [About Scale-Out Storage ARM-ification...and $/GB](#) (Juku.it, 15 December 2016)
- [Docker Storage and Infinit FAQ](#) (Docker blog, 6 January 2017)
- [The iPhone Revolution 10 Years Later](#) (Stephen Foskett, 9 January 2017)
- [Report on GeekFluent's Predictions for 2016 - How'd I Do?](#) (GeekFluent, 26 December 2016)

People to Follow

Folks I follow online. Names change with each newsletter...

- Martin Glassborow - blogger and UK storage manager for media company.
- Gavin McLaughlin - fellow podcaster and storage marketing specialist.
- Chris Mellor - also a fellow podcaster and storage editor for The Register.
- Alex Galbraith - blogger, podcaster and daytime solutions architect.
- Enrico Signoretti - blogger, podcaster, organiser of TechUnplugged events.

News Worth Reading...

Click on the links to read the full story.

Demystifying persistent storage: As containers die, data lives on

According to a recent survey from Portworx, IT managers depend on containers to help improve their agility, reduce their costs and improve system performance. Yet their number two concern with container storage - loss of data...

Venturebeat: AWS launches Amazon Lightsail, a DigitalOcean killer offering $5 virtual private servers

At its annual re:Invent user conference in Las Vegas today, public cloud market leader Amazon Web Services (AWS) announced Amazon Lightsail, a new way for developers to quickly and easily get access to low-cost virtual private servers (VPS).

[The Register: MongoDB ransom attacks soar, bodu count hits 27,000 in hours](#)

MongoDB databases are being decimated in soaring ransomware attacks that have seen the number of compromised systems more than double to 27,000 in a day. Criminals are accessing, copying and deleting data from unpatched or badly-configured databases.

[The Register: AWS chief: Tens of thousands flocking from database rivals](#)

AWS's database migration service (DMS) is storming along according to its head Andy Jassy, who offered a rare data point on the company's development last week. Jassy took to Twitter to boast that Amazon Web Services had facilitated 16,000 database migrations last year, since launching on 15 March. 2,000 of those migrations took place following the re:Invent conference which concluded at the end of November.

[The Register: Virtualisation got boring in 2016, but the fun's about to start anew](#)

2016 was a year in which virtualisation became so mainstream, so expected, so accepted that it started to look like a moribund market. But virtualisation's really only just getting started because storage virtualisation, network virtualisation and network function virtualisation are just getting started, while other uses for the idea are on the horizon.

[TechCrunch: Amazon's EC2 Container Service adds support for Windows Containers](#)

With the launch of Windows Server 2016 three months ago, Microsoft gave its users the ability to [use the Docker engine to run containers on Windows server](#). This meant developers could now package their Windows executables into containers and run them on Windows Server (though obviously not on Linux machines), using the same Docker engine and commands they were already used to. Today, AWS [announced](#) that it its EC2 Container Service (ECS) now also [supports Windows Containers](#) in beta.

[TechCrunch: Docker open sources critical infrastructure component](#)

[Docker](#) announced today that it was [open sourcing containerd](#) (pronounced Container D), making a key infrastructure piece of its container platform available for anyone to work on. Containerd, which acts as the core container runtime engine, is a component within Docker that provides "users with an open, stable and extensible base for building non-Docker products and container solutions," according to the company. Leading cloud providers have signed on to work on it including Alibaba, AWS, Google, IBM and Microsoft.

We're interested in your feedback! Is there anything you would like to see covered in these newsletters or on the blog? Do you have an opinion on any of the content? Just hit reply to this email or continue the conversation online: [@architectingit](#) on Twitter, or via [Linkedin](#).

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