

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

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Welcome to Cloud Wars

At Oracle OpenWorld last week, the company (Oracle) talked more about their public cloud offerings and going head to head with Amazon Web Services (AWS). Larry Ellison claimed to be 20% cheaper and up to 11.5 times faster than AWS, depending on the metric you choose.

Price War

I've looked over Oracle's IaaS offerings and there's no doubt that in certain circumstances (e.g. vanilla storage), prices are lower than that charged by AWS. However looking at the compute offerings, it's much harder to do a direct comparison as the product offerings aren't directly comparable. Obfuscating the service definition and cost is something mobile companies have done for many years, frustrating all of us who have tried to compare price plans and pick a cheaper provider. So prices may be cheaper, but you have to do some homework to really check that out.

Trust

Perhaps a harder area for Oracle is one of trust. There are stories almost every week that highlight the company's somewhat aggressive practices towards their customers. Oracle regularly performs software audits to determine licence compliance and then uses that as a bargaining chip in extending and renewing ongoing licence charges. It's perfectly possible that IaaS and SaaS resources are being built into those negotiations.

So how would you (or I) feel about moving our workloads to an Oracle Cloud? Once onboard, would charges increase? Would there be additional unexpected costs, and like the Hotel California, would we be able to check out but never leave?

Multi-Cloud

Oracle's move into public cloud brings us back to a discussion on how we can ensure our applications and data have future portability, so if we did ever fall out with one provider or another, it would be possible to isolate ourselves from the damage.

I originally thought of the idea of a "redundant array of inexpensive clouds" back in 2008 (and managed to dredge up [my blog post](#) of the time) and since then there have been other pieces of work looking into this in a more formal manner. There's RACS ([link](#)), a potential patent ([link](#)), BRIC ([Bunch of Redundant Independent Clouds](#)) and a claim that The Pirate Bay had the first working solution ([link](#)).

Containerisation

However since those thoughts eight years ago, the compute world has moved on. Server virtualisation is ubiquitous and now containers look to become the next de-facto application deployment standard. The benefit of using containers is in the ability to spin up an application anywhere, any time, subject to two criteria - networking and storage. The networking piece is getting resolved, with storage a little behind. The ability to move data on and off any particular vendor's cloud will in the future provide both agility and the reassurance to know that lock-in doesn't have to be a problem.

What do you think?

Chris Evans

News Worth Reading...

Click on the links to read the full story.

[Cloud Foundry launches its new Docker-compatible container management system](#)

[Cloud Foundry](#), the Pivotal- and VMware-incubated open source platform-as-a-service project, is going all in on its new Diego container management system. For a while now, the project used what it called Droplet Execution Agents (DEA) to manage application containers. After running in parallel for a while, though, the team has now decided to go all in on its new so-called “Diego” architecture....

[The Register: Seventeen hopefuls fight for the NVMe Fabric array crown](#)

Comment *A new phase of disruption is hitting the performance data storage array market, giving new, old, startup and struggling all-flash array vendors a shot at making it big by using NVMe flash drives and NVMe Fabric-class connectivity to provide direct-attached SSD performance from external arrays....*

[ZDNet: Sweet SUSE! HPE snags itself a Linux distro](#)

Before [HPE spun out its software assets in a deal with Micro Focus](#), the UK-based business was best known for its soup-to-nuts [support of COBOL](#). What most people missed is the deal also made [HPE](#) the first major, old-school technology company to give preference to Linux distributor [SUSE](#)....

[TechCrunch: Evernote is moving all its data, machine learning tech to Google Cloud Platform](#)

[Evernote](#) — the popular note taking and productivity startup with 200 million users — has built its reputation around an app that lets you record and track all your life’s details hold them there, for life. Today, the company is shifting gears on the question of how it will keep hold of and track that information: Evernote is [migrating](#) all of its data, including some 5 billion notes, to Google’s Cloud Platform....

[VentureBeat: Larry Ellison says "Amazon's lead is over" as Oracle unveils new cloud infrastructure](#)

Just as Larry Ellison [said](#) it would, Oracle has unveiled its second generation of cloud infrastructure for third-party developers to run their applications in Oracle data centers. The announcement was made at Oracle's OpenWorld conference in San Francisco today...

[TechCrunch: BlazingDB uses GPUs to manipulate huge databases in no time](#)

Gathering petabytes of data about your customers is cool, but how can you take advantage of this data? BlazingDB lets you run high-performance SQL on a database using a ton of GPUs. The company is introducing a free community edition of its solution on stage at TechCrunch Disrupt SF in our Battlefield competition....

[Data Center Knowledge: Why Michael Dell is Smiling](#)

Pat Gelsinger thinks the days of the enterprise data center as we know it are numbered. "Increasingly, companies want to get out of the job of building their own data centers, and operating their own data centers, providing a huge opportunity for service providers," the CEO of VMware said from stage at VMworld 2016 in Las Vegas late last month, in one fell swoop declaring the principal focus of this very publication obsolete....

[The Register: We read Nutanix's homework... and the numbers look good](#)

Analysis Nutanix has filed an [amended S1 IPO form](#) with the SEC and data within it shows a strongly growing business well-set for an IPO if the financial environment is supportive....



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