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

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Data Mobility

Last week I spent some time with NetApp at the Europe edition of their Insight conference. Insight developed from a customer/partner event and so has a different feel to many of the current large gatherings we see in the industry today. However, I would say that NetApp is looking to move to a more mainstream format, with discussions on the state of the business being part of the keynote presentations.

Data Fabric

One strategy being pursued by the company is the idea of the Data Fabric, an all encompassing data plane that integrates existing technologies (and those from competitors and the public cloud) into a single view of all of the information an organisation owns.

The fabric implements functionality to move, process and organise data logically compared to the physical location and operation of the underlying hardware. Examples were presented onstage in the keynote and in fact some of the thinking from the team led by Joe CaraDonna was discussed at a Storage Field Day earlier this year.

Tactical

To date I'd say the implementations we've seen from NetApp have been tactical rather than strategic. There's the ability to backup and restore data into the public cloud and to manage data in SaaS solutions like Office 365. Great as these are, I suspect many storage administrators were looking for something a little more hardware focused, such as the ability to move snapshots or replicate between Data ONTAP and SolidFire's ElementOS. I expect these kinds of features will come in time, whereas the Data Fabric announcements so far have been focused on demonstrating capability without having to change the core products.

Strategic

That leads us on to strategic thinking. During the event I was able to spend an hour with Mark Bregman, NetApp CTO. You can find a brief podcast talking about the Data Fabric at Storage Unpacked (link). You can listen to the podcast yourself, however one important item discussed by Mark was the fact that the data fabric concept will evolve over time, reusing technology where possible. This is a long term strategy, rather than tactical thinking.

The Architect's View

I have two main comments to make - first the issue the Data Fabric looks to solve, that of data mobility, is a real problem and hasn't really been fixed yet. Only time will tell if NetApp have the answer, although there are many other vendors out there hoping to solve this problem too. I blogged on data mobility earlier in the year (link) and added some thoughts to how the problem could be solved. I think we've moved on from there and the solutions in the market place only partially address the problems of having visibility to our data in all locations. 2017 will see new solutions emerge and this area will become a hot

topic for data storage.

What do you think?

Chris Evans

New Architecting IT Blog Posts...

No new posts since the last newsletter.

New Storage Unpacked Podcasts...

- [Soundbytes: The Data Fabric Explained with NetApp CTO Mark Bregman](#) (19 November 2016)

Other Blog Posts...

- [Ansible - Provision Docker Swarm Mode (1.12) Cluster](#) (Larry Smith Jr, 18 November 2016)
- [Understand Azure's new VM Naming Standards](#) (Aidan Finn blog, 17 November 2016)
- [Rubrik - A refreshing approach to backups](#) (Kamshin blog, 13 November 2016)
- [Serverless-enabled storage? It's a big deal](#) (Juku.it, 7 November 2016)

People to Follow

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

- [Joe CaraDonna](#) - Senior Technical Director, NetApp (Data Fabric)
- [Mark Bregman](#) - NetApp CTO
- [Val Bercovici](#) - ex-NetApp Cloud Czar and now SolidFire CTO
- [Martin Cooper](#) - Director of Systems Engineering, NetApp & SolidFire
- [John Rollason](#) - Marketing Director, SolidFire

News Worth Reading...

Click on the links to read the full story.

[Ars Technica: 8TB drives looking solid, seem to be some of Seagate's best](#)

Cloud backup and storage provider Backblaze has [published](#) its latest batch of drive reliability data. The release covers failure information for the 67,642 disks that the company uses to store nearly 300PB of data.

[VentureBeat: Google joins Microsoft's .NET Foundation](#)

As part of its slew of announcements at its Connect(); 2016 developer event in New York City today, Microsoft revealed that Google is joining the .NET Foundation. Specifically, Google is becoming a member of the Technical Steering Group, which Microsoft says "reinforces the vibrancy of the .NET developer community" and also underlines "Google's commitment to fostering an open platform that supports businesses and developers who have standardized on .NET."

[TechCrunch: Microsoft joins the Linux Foundation](#)

How is this for a surprise: Microsoft today [announced](#) that it is joining the [Linux Foundation](#)as a high-paying [Platinum member](#). "This may come as a surprise to you, but they were not big fans," Linux Foundation executive director Jim Zemlin told me in regards to his foundation's history with Microsoft. The new Microsoft under CEO Satya Nadella, however, is singing a very different tune.

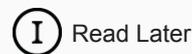[DataCenter Knowledge: By 2020, 92 Percent of All Data Center Traffic Will be Cloud](#)

Cloud data center traffic will exceed 14 zettabytes in 2020, an increase of 262 percent from 2015, according to the [Cisco Global Cloud Index](#) (PDF). Released Thursday, the report projects total global data center traffic to reach 15.3 ZB annually by 2020, with 92 percent of all workloads being processed in the cloud by 2020.

[Reuters: IBM invests in UK data centers as tech sector defies Brexit worries](#)

Global IT group IBM (IBM.N) will triple the number of its cloud data centers in Britain, it said on Tuesday, joining Facebook and Google in investing in the UK after its vote to leave the European Union. IBM said it would build four new data centers to meet demand from its corporate and public sector clients who were increasingly storing data and managing their businesses in the cloud.

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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