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New Architecting IT Blog Posts...

- [What is a Forklift Upgrade?](#) (15 April 2018)
- [The Three Facets of Backup](#) (13 April 2018)
- [AWS Introduces Cheaper, Less Reliable S3 Option](#) (11 April 2018)
- [INFINIDAT InfiniSync - Infinite Sync Replication](#) (9 April 2018)

New Storage Unpacked Podcasts

- [#46 - Another View on Open Source Storage with Neil Levine](#) (13 April 2018)
- [#45 - Modern Software Defined Storage With Avinash Lakshman](#) (6 April 2018)



Droplet Computing

The advantage of starting an IT career in the 1980's has been to see many technology changes over the years. I was lucky in many respects to start with IBM mainframe, which gave me a view on the complex end of systems development, assembler, system internals and virtualisation.

Yes, virtualisation in 1989. Remember we've had IBM virtualisation in the form of VM from around 1973. VMware simply took an existing concept and brought it (very successfully) into the x86 era.

Linux vs Windows

It wasn't long before we had an interesting battle on our hands in the mid-1990s. Linux was starting to gain popularity as a hobbyist operating system, while Microsoft was rewriting windows (NT) for the data centre.

With any new platform development, there's always a desire to find a way to support popular applications. Some get re-written. Some get emulated. In the early 2000's, we saw the development of Lindows that became Linspire - an attempt to run Windows applications on Linux.

The results weren't that great. I messed about a lot with Lindows, but the biggest problem I found was there were many Windows applications that didn't play fair and use the standard Win32 API.

Wine

Of course there are other emulators that have been around for longer - Wine (Wine is Not an Emulator) is one. Wine translates runtime system calls into POSIX compliant system calls that can be executed on Linux, FreeBSD and macOS.

Droplet Computing

Why bother cross-emulating software? Droplet Computing, a UK-based company, launched their Windows emulation platform last week at [Cloud Field Day 3](#). Their software does exactly this - allows applications to be emulated cross-platform using a standard browser such as Chrome.

But to ask the question again, why bother? The use-cases presented by Droplet Computing focused very much on the desktop. Examples included running older code on a later O/S that doesn't support the software, or running full Windows desktop applications on Linux or even ARM-based processors.

Enterprise is the Prize

Desktop emulation is nice (expect a post covering this soon), but to my mind, the real prize is the enterprise. There are many, many applications running on various flavours of operating systems (especially those that have lost out to Linux, like Solaris, AIX and HP-UX) that are still needed today, but cost a lot of money to support. Being able to run them emulated would allow the applications to be moved off to virtual infrastructure or even the cloud.

So Droplet Computing may have an interesting Desktop story, but expect Enterprise data centres to be the final destination for this interesting technology.

What do you think?

Chris Evans

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Events 2018

The Architecting IT team will be attending the following events. Get in touch if you want to meet up!

- NetApp Analysts Day (7 May 2018)
- [Nutanix .Next 2018](#) (8-10 May 2018)
- [Pure Accelerate 2018](#) (22-24 May 2018)
- [Flash Memory Summit](#) (7-9 August 2018)

Past events pages

- [Cloud Field Day 3](#) (4-6 April 2018)

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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