The Importance of Multi-Cloud Management

Multi-cloud adoption is a trend experts project will only continue to grow. IDC predicts that by 2018, over 85% of enterprises will leverage multi-cloud environments, which essentially involves mixing and matching services from different cloud providers to meet varying workload requirements.

As multi-cloud use becomes more prevalent, so do the challenges associated with managing it. Often times, the urgency to realize the business benefits of the cloud can lead IT departments to move forward without a complete understanding of the challenges and risks involved with multi-cloud use, and without an effective way to address or manage them.

More Clouds Mean More Management

A multi-cloud architecture gives organizations more flexibility to address differing requirements, but due to multiple vendors, complex integrations and the need for technology orchestration, it also gives companies more to manage. This creates a number of challenges, including:

- Lack of Automation - IT leaders need to reduce the manual efforts associated with provisioning and managing multi-cloud workloads.

- Security - Securing data is challenging when applications and data are spread across multiple cloud services.

- Cost Control - Business owners are often surprised and unprepared for the large monthly or annual expenses from cloud providers. With buyers of public cloud services throughout the organization, it is challenging for IT to keep costs under control.

- Management - Hybrid cloud management can be a complex process. With numerous administration tools to master, servers to maintain, apps to keep running, scaling that needs to happen, and a host of other tasks.

What's needed is a solution that enables visibility, simplifies management and optimizes the utilization of resources in a multi-cloud environment. Enter a cloud management platform (CMP).

What is a Cloud Management Platform?

Gartner defines a CMP as "integrated products that provide for the management of public, private and hybrid cloud environments. The minimum requirements to be included in this category are products that incorporate self-service interfaces, provision system images, enable metering and billing, and provide for some degree of workload optimization through established policies."

With a CMP, organizations enjoy the benefits of multi-cloud while reducing the complexity by:

- Optimizing Costs - A CMP provides insight and visibility into cloud spend and can help with budgeting, allowing companies to stretch IT budgets across multiple cloud providers while optimizing costs.

- Improving Efficiency - Managing individual clouds is time- and resource-intensive. A CMP automates and streamlines many tasks and improves efficiency by enabling administration from a single dashboard.

- Ensure Security and Compliance - Security isn't just hard to manage with multiple vendors, silos can become so opaque that it's hard to spot risks. By providing a top-level view of security and allowing IT to drill down into the security of each cloud, a CMP ensures that cloud environments are as secure and compliant as possible.

- Accelerate Application Delivery- CMPs can automate and streamline provisioning as well as support DevOps in deploying the applications they need as quickly as possible.

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Selecting a Cloud Management Platform

Selecting a CMP is a difficult task. According to David Linthicum from Tech Target, the following are key considerations for selecting a CMP tool:

- The resources you must manage, including types of public and private clouds, DevOps, compliance, cost control, etc.

- The focus, including operations, development, governance or all of the above. What will you need most?

- Interface compatibility with the cloud resources you're looking to leverage. The CMP provider must support those connections for you.

- Compliance and security.

The requirements should point to the right CMP for your organization.

Right Application, Right Cloud, Right Management Platform

Managing your multi-cloud environment doesn't have to be complex, and neither does selecting the right CMP. OneNeck's ReliaCloud CMP will unify your on-premises, public, private or hybrid clouds together via a single platform, providing you with a "single pane of glass" to automate, manage, monitor, secure and govern your clouds, from a consolidated view. Contact us today to discuss your cloud management needs or to schedule a demo of ReliaCloud CMP.

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