



IT SPRING CLEANING

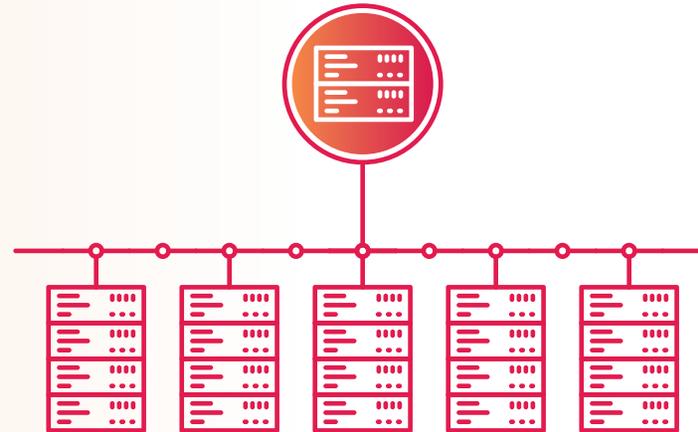
—
Five tips to tidy up
your infrastructure

A trend to declutter homes has emerged from the popularity of the hit Netflix show, Tidying Up with Marie Kondo. Her method is to declutter by choosing to keep objects that spark joy. This kind of philosophy can be applied to IT shops. While you may not think of IT infrastructure as sparking joy, you may think of it as sparking productivity and innovation to make your organization more successful and we believe there is joy in that.

Here are five tips to help you declutter your IT infrastructure for the better.



1



Consolidate **boxes**

While there may be some appeal in a server room full of neatly organized racks of computing devices with flashing lights operating as the nerve center for your business, appearance isn't everything. You may get far more for your money by reducing the rack space you require by replacing older monolithic server and storage boxes with more modern hyperconverged infrastructure appliances.

Where in the past you may have needed multiple physical hosts for computing and multiple storage devices for redundancy, **hyperconvergence can consolidate servers and storage into a single appliance** and you might find that you can replace a whole rack of older servers with only 3-4 smaller appliances in a highly available cluster. It is not just about the rack space; it is about the savings of having fewer devices to power, cool, manage, and maintain.



Restarting with a smaller footprint not only saves time and money now but also makes future growth easier and less costly.

2

Reduce Software Licensing



Software licensing isn't fun. Ok, no kidding around, it's awful. First, you have to buy a license to use the software. Ok, fine. Then you find out you need to buy another license if you want to be able to manage the software on multiple servers from a single console. Why? Oh, and that other cool feature you heard about? That's not included in your license. You need another license for that feature. Oh, and we forgot to mention, you need to pay for all of those licenses again next year, and the year after that, and so on.

Not all solutions license this way. Look for solutions that eliminate or reduce the need for software licensing. Solutions where you can pay once and only worry about regular support and maintenance fees in the future. Solutions that don't tax you for every feature but instead offer you a full solution at a reasonable price up front. It is not only expensive to pay all of those software licensing fees but it takes a lot of time just to manage the licenses and deal with license renewals.

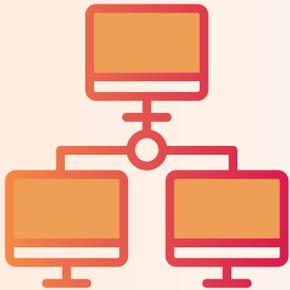


Take a good look at your renewing software licensing fees and for alternatives that eliminate or reduce those licenses and fees.

3

Simplify management

Your IT management workstation shouldn't have to look like mission control at NASA. When you build an IT infrastructure out of a number of different components, they usually each come with their own management console. There may well be a management console just for storage, one just for server hardware, one just for your hypervisor, and probably a separate console just for your backup/DR solution. That is a lot of consoles to look at to make sure things are running smoothly, or when not, to diagnose a problem.



Sure, you could purchase an additional management solution that can tie some or all of those solutions together under a single management console, but why pay even more? All of those components should be combined together under a single solution and management console in the first place. **That is what hyperconverged infrastructure can do. It eliminates the need to look at multiple consoles because the storage, servers, virtualization, and backup/DR are all managed from a single console.**

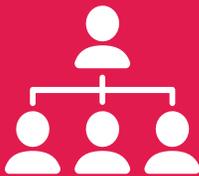
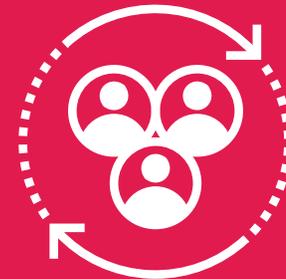


Hyperconverged infrastructure saves time and reduces complexity, making it easier to manage and maintain infrastructure.

4

Reduce vendors

Multiple vendors may be the worst kind of clutter you can have in an IT shop. When you have a different vendor for storage, servers, virtualization, and backup/DR, it can be a nightmare when something goes wrong and the finger-pointing starts. Vendor A blames Vendor B, then Vendor B blames Vendor C. Around and around it goes and you are still stuck with the problem.



Reducing vendors reduces the opportunity for finger pointing and gets the problem resolved faster. Using a single vendor solution like hyperconverged infrastructure where the same vendor provides the storage, servers, virtualization, and backup/DR eliminates a lot of support headaches. It reduces the list of support numbers you might have to call if there is a problem and reduces the number of support contracts you have to renew to make sure you have support when you need it.

5

Use only what you need



When you purchase IT infrastructure are you purchasing what you need now or are you also purchasing what you think you might need in the future? The trend for the last few decades in IT has been to provision for the future, but times have changed. **It doesn't really make sense to buy and have computing resources now that you don't think you will use for another 3-5 years.** You are paying for them to simply be on hold for years until they are needed, taking up power and space.



Think about the cost of purchasing now versus purchasing in the future. **In just 3-5 years, the same technology will likely be cheaper or you can get even better technology for the same price.** If you buy now, you are cheating yourself out of a potentially much better deal in the future. It probably seems easier to buy now because traditionally it has been very difficult to scale out in the future from your existing infrastructure. It doesn't have to be.



Hyperconverged infrastructure can make it very easy to scale out in the future, and if you get the right solution, you can even scale out by adding newer, more efficient computing appliances to your existing infrastructure seamlessly. You can pay for only what you need now and rest assured that when you need more resources in the future you can add them quickly and easily to your infrastructure without disruption.



SUMMARY

Tidying up your IT infrastructure is not the same as tidying up your house, but it can bring great benefits just the same. It is never the wrong time to take stock of your current IT environment and look for ways to make it more efficient, more manageable, and more cost-effective to your organization. **It's spring but we hope you keep thinking about it all year long.**



**MORE
EFFICIENT**



**MORE
MANAGEABLE**



**MORE
COST-EFFECTIVE**



Corporate Headquarters

525 S. Meridian Street - 3E

Indianapolis, IN 46225

P. +1 317-856-9959

scalecomputing.com