451 Research

CLOUD MANAGEMENT AND AUTOMATION

Delivering the Enterprise Cloud Console

Tools for cloud management and automation are poised to become the 'assembly line' for integrated cloud services.

CLOUDSCAPE

KEY FINDINGS

- 'Service integration' is the new game in town. IT services firms refocusing on this space (as opposed to 'systems integration') are turning themselves into software shops, and will require significant cloud management and automation expertise to compete. There will be important partner/M&A exit opportunities for companies that can demonstrate leadership here.

- Successful best-execution-venue (BEV) strategies will mean owning and operating fewer assets, while at the same time integrating additional hosted resources. Cloud management and automation tools will be key to the functioning of these complex, dynamic arrangements.

- 451 Research survey data finds the cloud moving into the delta of assessment and planning, which means the creation of vendor consideration lists will become tactical actions by end users. Cloud management and automation will be critical to the success of cloud deployment infrastructure over its lifecycle.

- Cloud management and automation tools provide the ability to deliver the consumer-technology experience to enterprises: self-service, on-demand, pay-per-use. Consumer technology has set a high bar, and the consumerization of IT is one of the most important developments that organizations can leverage to ensure that IT is successful – i.e., that it is well accepted and used.

REPORT SNAPSHOT

TITLE	Cloud Management and Automation
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RELEASE DATE	November 2013
LENGTH	18 pages

ABOUT THIS REPORT

As the worlds of outsourcing, hosting, managed services and cloud computing continue to converge, users can choose services that meet a variety of workload, policy and SLA characteristics. 'Best execution venue' (BEV) practices will be used to make rational decisions about how and where to best run applications and tasks, and from where to source services. A BEV may be an internal or on-premises cloud; a multi-tenant public cloud; a SaaS offering; some 'more trusted' cloud; or a private, hosted, dedicated environment that can fulfill specific economic, operational, latency or data-location requirements.

This report examines the adoption of cloud management and automation tools that are emerging to support the selection, provisioning, scheduling and dispatch of work to BEVs and the acquisition of services from them. Of particular interest are tools that can manage this complex and dynamic activity, which are identified within the adoption plans of enterprise end users in our Wave 5 Cloud Computing Study.

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