IndependenceIT's Cloud Workspace Suite 5.0 — Enabling Choice in Public Cloud Virtual Client Computing Deployments

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IDC's Quick Take

IndependenceIT announces the release of the Cloud Workspace Suite (CWS) 5.0, aimed at enabling multicloud/hybrid cloud virtual client computing (VCC) deployments. CWS 5.0 enables enterprise IT organizations and service providers alike to leverage a mix of on-premise and public cloud resources that best meets their needs for implementing and managing virtualized desktops and/or applications.

Product Announcement Highlights

On March 29, 2016, IndependenceIT announced the release of the 5.0 version of its flagship Cloud Workspace Suite. This new release provides several new features from the previous 4.2 version as well as a significant overhaul of the user interface and experience. One of the new and improved features is aimed at facilitating IIT-powered VCC deployments on Microsoft's Azure as well as mixed between or completely on other cloud/datacenter infrastructure/hypervisor platforms such as AWS, Citrix, OpenStack, and VMware.

The 5.0 release also supports functions that allow infrastructure-as-a-service (IaaS) resources to be scaled up, down, or completely off on a scheduled or manually activated but automated basis. In this way, organizations can avoid paying for idle or underutilized IaaS instances during nights, weekends, or holidays but also ensure that the performance that users experience does not suffer when usage ramps up as workdays start.

What's more, IndependenceIT customers can also leverage CWS to deploy select VCC workloads on-premises. In this model, CWS becomes the single cloud-based management control plane for customers to implement and manage VCC instances across hybrid datacenter infrastructures, running both in the cloud and on-premises.

IDC's Point of View

IDC believes that many of the existing and new capabilities in IndependenceIT's CWS 5.0 are mostly targeted for use by desktop-as-a-service (DaaS) providers and independent software vendors (ISVs) because these entities must serve multiple customer organizations while using multitenant deployments. Even so, these CWS 5.0 features and functions are also well suited for an enterprise IT organization's single-tenant use case. Even though CWS was built "cloud first," that architecture flexibility allows it to be used by an individual entity for a completely on-premise VCC deployment. In that single-entity instance, there would be a certain degree of future proofing if that entity ever splits, scales up or down, and/or wants to migrate infrastructure to the cloud of its choice.

One compelling set of CWS 5.0 features serves to even the playing field between the large IaaS suppliers and the companies that engage their services for VCC deployments. Because the environments, architectures, management tools, and business models are highly heterogeneous, migration is difficult

and lock-in becomes a dangerous proposition. IndependenceIT claims that the tasks to initially set up a VCC deployment on a given cloud or migrate an existing deployment to another provider are simplified and automated by CWS 5.0. Likewise, the company has indicated that with CWS 5.0 these tasks can be completed in minutes as opposed to days, mitigating the risks associated with lock-in. In the migration case, CWS would assist with the provisioning and the CWS migration mode setting that suspends the infrastructure service elements would facilitate the IT admin's data migration process.

Furthermore, CWS 5.0's granular ability to quickly and easily scale also serves as a leveling factor between the IaaS and DaaS supplier business models. When you are a DaaS supplier, your revenue is generally fixed on a per-user and per-month basis. If you are paying for IaaS to provide those desktops, it is highly likely that your costs are more variable and you are often paying for virtual machines that are not being used. To that end, if you are an enterprise using IaaS to supply desktops and/or applications to your own users or customers, a similar cost issue exists. Therefore, IndependenceIT CWS 5.0's ability to scale VCC deployments across multiple public cloud datacenters stands to enable those that leverage IaaS to become more competitive in the DaaS market by improving their margins and enhancing their end products and services.

That said, IDC believes that completely turning off desktops and application-as-a-service instances would best work for concurrent license cases where at least a few instances would remain available. In today's always-on, always-connected world, many users find it difficult to completely disconnect from work during off-hours and services must be available to support them being productive whenever and wherever they choose to work.

Nevertheless, IDC expects that, as the market becomes increasingly educated on the benefits associated with cloud management control planes (related to the efficient provisioning and managing virtual client computing instances across hybrid infrastructures), solutions like IndependenceIT's CWS 5.0 will continue to gain traction with enterprise IT and service provider organizations alike.

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