

Gartner Data Center Conference 2013



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I&O Transformation Can't Wait — Taking Charge, Leading Change

Track descriptions

A Web-Scale IT: Can It Make Enterprise IT Competitive With the Cloud?
IT disruption is here. The approach to IT service delivery that we have taken for the past two decades likely won't serve critical parts of enterprise IT in the future. The answer will be the adoption of Web-scale IT, which is the distillation of Amazon-, Google-, Netflix- and Facebook-style methods and technologies to the enterprise. The impact this will have on traditional tool and service providers will be profound, as it will directly affect the fortunes of many of today's leading IT providers. In this track we discuss the elements that make up a Web-scale IT approach and provide additional in-depth sessions that explore the ramifications across the IT technology, process and organizational domains.

B IT Operations: Pursuing Operational Excellence
IT operations groups are feeling pressure from the consumerization of IT, which has given business customers the opportunity to easily access IT services in an always-on and available-everywhere manner. During the next two to three years, IT operations leaders can expect even stronger demands to demonstrate measurable value to their organizations, and to appropriately align infrastructure and operations (I&O) to end-users' needs. This track addresses IT operations at all levels of maturity, with the goal of helping I&O leaders advance to the role of valued strategic partner. Regardless of your IT operations management organization's current maturity level, these sessions help I&O leaders climb toward the goal of business alignment.

C Cloud Computing and Its impact on Infrastructure and Operations
Private cloud computing is moving rapidly from drawing board to deployment. Organizations are looking to share in the success of the notable public cloud providers while making the strategic, organizational, process and business model changes necessary to be successful in the future. This track takes a more tactical look at recent cloud developments, and how enterprises must change their processes, skills and organizational structures to best support the evolving public, private and hybrid cloud service delivery models.

Hot topics by track

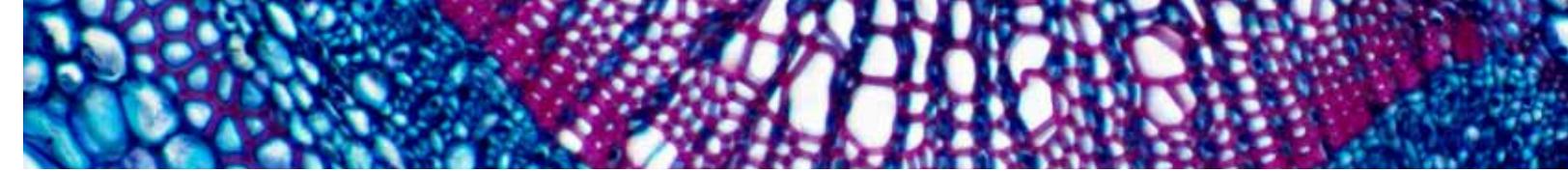
- Hyperscale
 - DevOps
 - Web 2.0
-
- Improving the quality of IT services
 - Demonstrating the value of IT or IT services
 - Availability and performance management
-
- Building a private cloud
 - Cloud security
 - Hybrid cloud computing

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D Keeping Ahead of the Mobility Explosion

I&O organizations can no longer postpone the creation of a mobile enterprise strategy that addresses data leakage, BYOD, multiple device ownership, file sharing and synchronization, safe data disposal, corporate app stores, app management and other mobility issues. With an effective strategy, I&O leaders can avoid making disjointed, tactical decisions that cause unnecessary and expensive complexity. Such a strategy can ensure that the end result satisfies user experience demands.

This track helps I&O leaders better understand business requirements, establish and evolve standards and processes, and meet ever-changing business requirements.

E Servers and Operating Systems: Foundational Sea Changes Ahead?

The server market is mature, but with continued technology innovation, there is a lot of dynamism under the surface, as well as ongoing shifts in competitive dynamics. The server's incarnation as a fixed and finite object at a particular place in the universe will no longer be a sufficient paradigm to manage the fast-changing IT environment. On one hand, vendors are promoting integrated systems, yet at the other end of the market, we see developments such as low-energy servers.

This track examines the competitive landscape of the complex server marketplace, including the Windows, Unix, Linux and z/OS markets, and the latest server developments and technologies that address these concerns.

F Storage: What Are We Going to Do With All This Data?

The growth in demand for storage is unabated, as growth rates remain high — with the majority of the growth being “unstructured.” As such, management and effective cost optimization become both paramount in importance and exceedingly difficult. New technologies and architectures are emerging, and some may enable profound change to the storage infrastructure in the coming years.

This track looks at critical decisions that organizations must address in key storage categories of archiving and content, backup and recovery, data security, infrastructure hardware, and resource management and systems. It assists storage professionals in selecting technology and/or storage architectures to best meet their future organizational requirements.

Hot topics by track

- BYOD/BYOA
- Mobile device management
- Desktop virtualization

- Fabric-based infrastructure
- Appliances
- Extreme low-energy servers

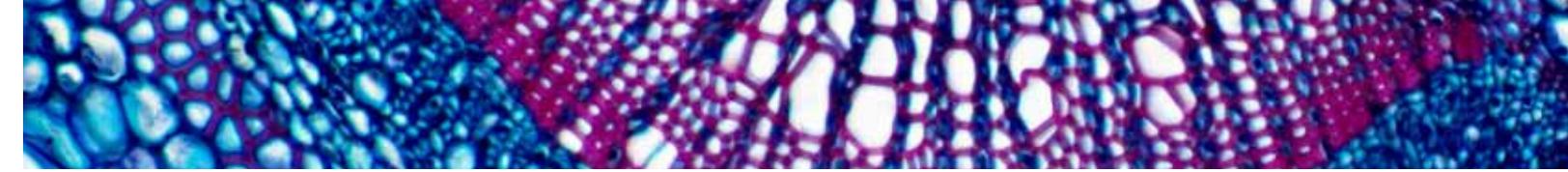
- Big data
- Best practices to manage storage growth
- Emerging storage architectures

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G Transforming Your Data Center Strategy to Better Support the Business

Aging data center infrastructures and energy cost increases — coupled with a growing need to be responsive to business demands — are forcing many organizations to rethink traditional approaches to supporting the business. Decisions on how many data centers an organization should have, where they should be located and workload placement within those data centers will be driven by issues such as business requirements, business continuity plans, skills availability and regulatory compliance.

Compounding these decisions, many users report having older facilities not optimally suited for today's compute environment. Moreover, IT equipment costs may be outweighed by ongoing energy costs, driving the need for new data center strategies. Options such as co-location or outsourcing need to be considered in addition to the traditional approaches of build, lease or refurbishment. Any modernization effort must begin with the overall facility, but all too often, this hasn't been the priority among IT practitioners.

This track offers invaluable advice about how to plan and implement a data center modernization strategy — whether it involves building and populating a new data center, modernizing an existing one or sourcing externally.

H Building and Maintaining a World-Class Data Center Networking Infrastructure

After a period of architectural stability that lasted at least 15 years, requirements for data center networking equipment have evolved rapidly during the past four years. The data center network market has been transformed with new architectures, new technologies and vendors specifically targeting solutions that address the changing size and density of the data center, shifts in traffic patterns and a growing requirement to simplify network operations.

Automation in the data center has had a major impact on data center operations; expectations are that the network will become part of a more coordinated virtual architecture. More recently, we have seen rapidly increasing interest in exploiting the broad network virtualization capabilities and open interfaces delivered with software-defined networking (SDN) solutions. This track assists organizations in their efforts to modernize their data center network architecture.

Hot topics by track

- Co-location/co-hosting options
- Best practices in building a new data center
- Data center infrastructure management (DCIM)

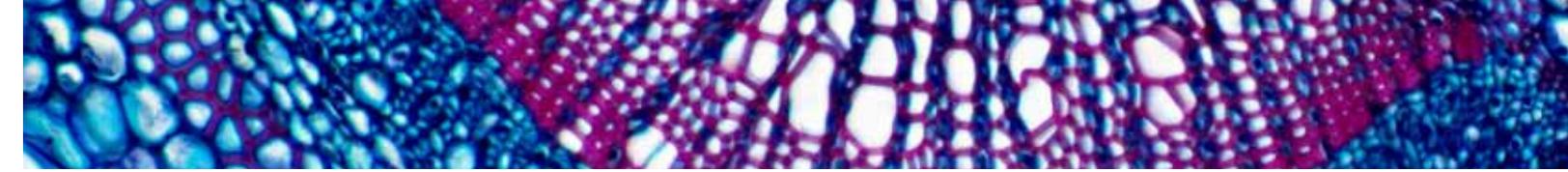
- Software-defined networking
- Data center network infrastructures
- Support for enterprise video

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I IT Cost Optimization: Always a Priority!

I&O must now think about costs in a climate of ongoing economic uncertainty. Because many organizations are still struggling with the bottom line, every I&O checklist should include new and reliable techniques to save money, to pinpoint areas of focus if the economic situation deteriorates further, and to identify possible unintended consequences of sharp cuts. Cost optimization is not simply about cost reduction.

In this track we reveal ways to drive new value out of both new and existing processes and technologies, to balance opportunities for growth with cost-cutting, to lead your I&O organization in lean times and how to prepare for an eventual economic recovery.

J IT Leadership: Professional Development

With data center transformation well underway — and gaining momentum with each passing month — IT roles, responsibilities and professional career paths will go through tumultuous change. Leaders will face new personnel management issues, including reskilling and coping with talent shortages for emerging roles in I&O. As a result, attracting, developing and retaining IT personnel has emerged as a top priority for IT decision makers.

Through a combination of strategic presentations and tactical, problem-solving workshops, this track helps I&O decision makers accurately identify required skill sets at every level in the IT organization, and offers pragmatic ways to maximize the contributions of every individual on the I&O team — including themselves.

Hot topics by track

- Cost-modeling a private cloud
- IT financial management
- Total-cost models

- Attracting, developing and retaining IT personnel
- Changing the culture of the data center and IT operations
- Developing next-generation talent

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