Healthcare and Hybrid Cloud

Hybrid Cloud Improves Healthcare Delivery by Unifying Fragmented Systems

Healthcare organizations are weighing heavily the strategic imperatives of a cloud strategy against very real security concerns.

Many have already adopted a hybrid cloud strategy. By 2020, approximately 80 percent of healthcare data will pass through the cloud.[1] In fact, some of the biggest healthcare players use cloud services to house patient data, including The Centers for Disease Control, Philips Healthcare and Bristol-Myers Squibb. For example, Philips Healthcare stores 390 million medical records across hundreds of sites and 100 countries.[2]

But beyond the industry's steady march toward cloud adoption, what are the drivers that are spurring its growth?

Healthcare IT professionals enjoy the multifold challenges of deploying and managing a modern technology infrastructure across different, very complex and highly regulated value chains – from payer to provider to clinical delivery processes. No easy task.

These are highly fragmented systems that were never really designed to be integrated. Medical practices, for example, spend between $21-to-$31B annually interacting with insurers.[3] Integrating different systems is a big part of that cost. This aspect is where cloud can play a very strategic role – knitting together heterogeneous systems, patient data and billing information to allow for more proactive value-based care that lowers costs and delivers improved outcomes.

Because the cloud brings data together into one central location, it provides a clear line of sight on a patient's history within the healthcare system, enhancing care delivery models, improving population health and wellness initiatives, and playing a key role in research, including genomics and clinical trials.

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Digital health solutions

Building on its acquisition of Anthelio Healthcare Solutions, a leader in revenue cycle management and patient engagement, Atos and its digital health solutions enable organizations to transform their operations with an infrastructure, application and security portfolio designed to accelerate the adoption of the cloud, improve financial performance and deliver greater levels of patient and IT service personalization.

Atos' hybrid cloud simplifies the orchestration and provisioning of applications, efficiently manages the migration of legacy systems, while providing better manageability of IT resources and costs. Fundamentally, Atos' customers are realizing greater sustainable value through the cloud by:

- Turning data into useful information. The cloud brings data together from disparate systems, making it conveniently available for analysis to support business intelligence, strategic planning and performance analysis through dashboards and scorecards.
- Providing a platform for data standardization. Combining data from mergers, acquisitions and different care settings often leaves organizations struggling with various EMRs and other data systems. The hybrid cloud enables development of a standardized nomenclature for organizations willing to invest resources to ensure their data is in synch and consistent across all platforms. It also helps distinguish similarities and differences in data, which is helpful to payers offering similar plans with different benefits.
- Enabling a holistic approach to patient care. The hybrid cloud presents a total view of the patient from all continuums of care, playing a vital role in day-to-day care and research. This aspect is especially important for complex diseases.

Ninety-five percent of healthcare organizations say interoperability challenges limit their ability to transfer data from one medical center to another.[4] The cloud, however, provides a platform that removes silos and barriers which impede strategic imperatives, and is designed to provide a 360-degree view of patient data, as well as improve care and efficiencies across the healthcare value continuum.

As a flexible mechanism for bringing together and standardizing different data systems, the hybrid cloud facilitates more seamless communication among healthcare stakeholders, enabling quality care while positioning the organization to meet future demands.

1. http://www.healthitoutcomes.com/doc/prediction-of-data-will-pass-through-the-cloud-by-0001
2. http://www.peak10.com/how-healthcare-can-benefit-from-hybrid-cloud-capabilities/
3. https://getreferralmd.com/2013/02/primary-care-to-specialist-referrals/
4. http://fortune.com/2015/01/14/5-trends-that-will-redefine-your-healthcare-experience-in-2015/

For more information: **info.na@atos.net**