

Automation is Key to Cloud Success



In a few short years, IaaS cloud computing has seen remarkable development in terms of its capabilities and role. The cloud has matured significantly as vendors developed solutions that provide better scalability, security, business-applications, and cost. Once seen as a relatively cutting-edge technology, cloud services are now largely seen as critical for organizations of all sizes, operating in a wide range of industries and locations, with many firms moving the bulk of their infrastructure into cloud environments. It is therefore significant that the cloud has become a fundamental criterion in CIO and CTO strategies.

As businesses increasingly choose to pursue cloud services, whether for the first time or as an expansion of existing operations, they must consider a variety of options. In addition to the various as-a-Service platforms available, organizations must choose between private, public or hybrid deployments and, critically, the different individual cloud vendors, all of which feature a unique combination of security, performance, availability and cost-efficiency.

Regardless of the specific IaaS cloud deployment pursued, it is vital for businesses to utilize automated solutions. Automated cloud systems produce numerous benefits for firms leveraging these strategies, allowing them to optimize the value inherent to their cloud technology.

Cloud Automation

According to the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), the essential characteristics of all cloud deployments:

- on-demand self-service,
- broad network access,
- resource pooling,
- rapid elasticity or expansion and measured service.

To achieve both on-demand self-service and measured service, automated solutions are essential. Without automation, you don't have self-service, and self-service is one of the most compelling reasons for a cloud, from an end-user and the IT office perspective.

"Self-service isn't the only benefit. More efficient use of data center resources, self-healing, improved application availability, better power management and preplanned responses to various scenarios are among the other potential benefits of a solid automation deployment," according to InformationWeek.

Business Benefit of Automation

A business leveraging cloud automation solutions is able to devote more time to developing forward-thinking initiatives and innovative policies and products, as personnel do not need to dedicate nearly as much time and energy to the management of the cloud infrastructure. By better allocating resources, firms can more effectively position themselves to move to the forefront of their given industries. Cloud automation serves a vital function in achieving this goal.

Additionally, automated cloud systems can play a critical role for firms looking to improve their DevOps capabilities.

DevOps is a relatively recent innovation. In the past, software development and operations were essentially separate departments. The DevOps configuration is designed to unite these areas, improving communication and collaboration, with the end result of more effective, efficient production.

Cloud automation can improve DevOps deployments in several ways.

- Provisioning agility and configuration management.
- Multiple environments – startup and shutdown
- Simulate production scenarios on Dev environment

Cloud computing, by its very technical nature, lends itself to automation better than legacy infrastructure systems. To maximize their potential, cloud solutions need to feature self-service functionality. Automated solutions are critical in this regard cloud automation is a vital consideration that should not be overlooked, as it can have a dramatic impact on the overall success of the deployment.

The Sirro Advantage

Developing or finding the ideal cloud automation solution can be far more challenging than simply selecting a private cloud or public cloud deployment. As InformationWeek noted, the enterprise cloud automation market is relatively new and immature compared to the broader IaaS cloud market, which is, relatively well-established. Consequently, there is a lack of standardization in the cloud automation industry. Performance expectations and features are not universally standardized.

It is important for organizations looking to utilize this technology to partner with trustworthy, reputable providers that have the experience, resources and commitment.

Developed by DISYS Labs, Sirro is one of the most advanced, robust automated cloud management products on the market today. Sirro, built to support Amazon Web Services (AWS), emphasizes usability, efficiency and security.

Sirro At A Glance

Sirro features a simple, information-rich dashboard that provides users the information regarding their current (and historical) cloud usage, spend, and resources in many regions of AWS.

The most important features of Sirro are:

- Ability to configure custom application stacks, and deploy with minimal user intervention
- Application-wide or department-wise tracking of deployed cloud infrastructure resources
- Multi-account and multi-user management, tied to one single AWS account, enabling complex access privileges
- Layered and structured billing reports and visibility
- Advanced monitoring and alerting systems built-in that ensure tracking and resolution

Sirro is ideal for big data processing and analytics leveraging Hadoop, Redshift clusters and other technologies, vastly reducing build-and-configure cycles. Some of the popular ready to deploy templates on Sirro are

- Active Directory, Sharepoint
- Oracle E-Biz, SAP HANA
- Wordpress, Drupal
- BI applications such as Jaspersoft, Microstrategy

DISYS Labs is the research and development arm of Digital Intelligence Systems dedicated to developing increasingly effective, useful solutions for our clients. With a wide range of focuses, including big data analytics, enterprise resource planning, mobile device application management and the cloud, DISYS Labs brings together talented teams from all over the world to develop the most innovative and advanced technological solutions.

Resources

<http://www.informationweek.com/infrastructure/management/private-cloud-automation/240002009>
<http://archive.ciol.com/PrintArticle.aspx?ArticleId=158520>

Fig 01: Dashboard



Fig 04: Viewing the resources

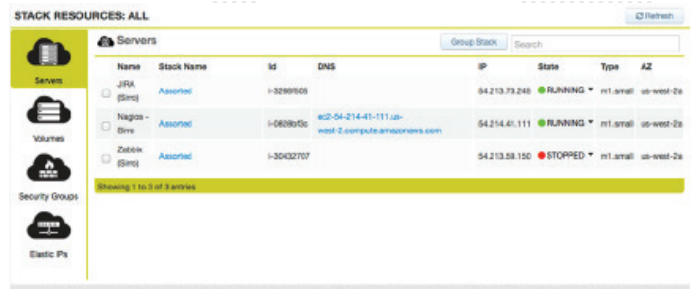


Fig 02: Launching an instance

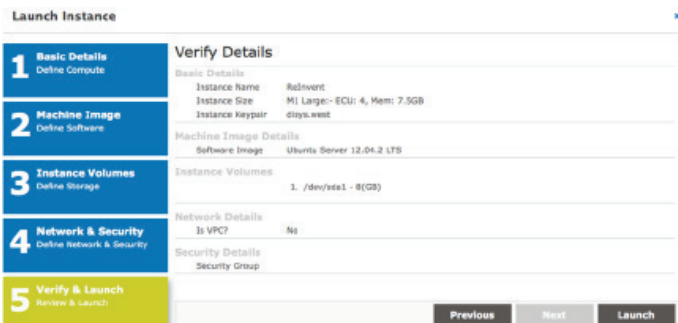


Fig 05: Billing Reports

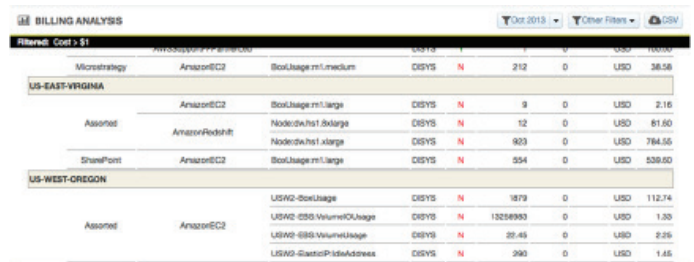
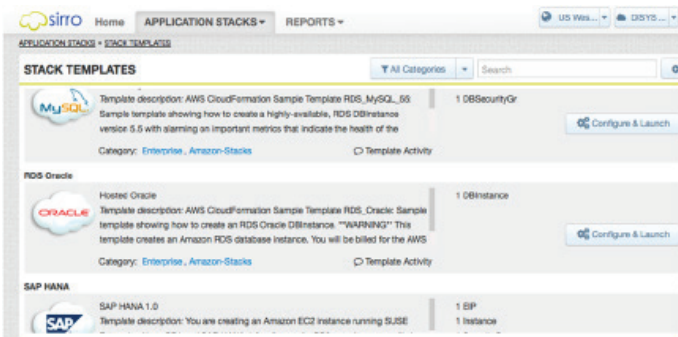


Fig 03: Enterprise Application Templates



Conclusion

As the importance of the cloud continues to grow, it will be vital for firms to leverage high-quality, effective solutions. Organizations must choose not only the ideal type of cloud deployment to optimize their operations, but also a technology partner that can meet their unique cloud needs.

Achieving this result requires an effective cloud management system such as DISYS' Sirro. Sirro offers the ease-of-use functionality and flexibility necessary to manage a diverse range of cloud applications and deployments. By leveraging Sirro, a company can achieve wide-scale cloud integration without additional degree of risk, cost, or complications. Sirro ensures efficient, automated cloud solutions, and is an invaluable platform for companies in virtually every industry and sector.

About DISYS

DISYS is an IT staffing and consulting company serving Fortune 500 and other global-scale enterprises worldwide. DISYS delivers strategic value by understanding and responding to a client's environment, problems, and challenges either by assembling the most highly talented team for any job or delivering more comprehensive, cost-effective IT solutions. Incorporated in 1994 as a certified Minority Business Enterprise, DISYS has nearly doubled in revenues over the past three years, and currently ranks as the second-fastest growing company in the staffing industry among companies with revenues exceeding \$300 million. DISYS is headquartered in McLean, Virginia, with offices and delivery locations worldwide. To learn more about DISYS, visit www.disys.com.

