

Practical Options and Reference Architectures for Future Business Continuity

CTO for Cloud Gateway, Neil Briscoe highlights how COVID-19 presented a serious threat to business continuity. Equally notable is the heavy dependence on cloud services to overcome the challenges imposed by the pandemic.

1

Remote Working Is Here to Stay - Respond with Augmented Infrastructure

Whether it's the next disaster or response to people strategy, a high percentage of businesses will be set up to accommodate a largely remote and global workforce. Investment in remote services will become a priority as co-location and hardware are outweighed by WFH and BYOD appetite. Augmenting your infrastructure in a Hybrid approach presents a compelling solution.

2

The Business-Case for Hybrid

Hybrid requires upfront thinking in regard to routing, security, compliance and demarcation. Businesses will however have the option of expanding into cloud when its needed.

Hybrid can further aid current and future migrations when new workloads are created in the cloud. Integration of the estate can be seamless with cost benefits linked to switching it on and off as and when scale is needed.

3

Architecture Options

VPN: Internet access which easily connects to AWS, using a primary and back-up leg. No SLA. Drawback is cost as data egress can be impractical.

L2 Private Circuit: Provides express route from your campus to hyperscaler. Resilient, doesn't need the internet, but private connectivity is costly.

NaaS: Agnostic, connects to all providers with over 2000 endpoints, suited for multi-cloud organisations with the requirements to validate the cost.

4

Technologies to enable BCaaS

RAS: A tried and trusted VPN-type service which uses the internet securely to access servers far in the cloud, however compliance is strict with no protocol breaks.

VDI: Effectively Desktop as a Service with all apps on a desktop linked to a directory, offering rapid scalability and ease of use.

WAF: Quick and easy way to publish applications on the internet, BYOD and WFH with on-prem proxy services.

5

Where to start?

Explore the tech RAS, VDI and WAF. Try different things, play with cloud, test connectivity, build sandpits and ideas will follow. Networking in the cloud is still a dark art but there is enough education and designs available to find the best fit for your business continuity.

"We'd like to think that we'd designed everything to be able to cater for 100% concurrency, everyone working from home, in an agile environment, but in truth most of us didn't."

Neil Briscoe, CTO, Cloud Gateway

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