Putting medical software in the cloud

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Many healthcare providers rely on MEDITECH software to facilitate electronic health records (EHRs) and other integrated care activities. As modern health requirements have become more complex and demanding, so too has the software that supports them.

"A 200-bed community healthcare provider may need as many as 50 servers and five terabytes or more of data, managed to strict performance tolerances, to run a full MEDITECH environment," says Jim Fitzgerald, executive vice president of Park Place International, a leading provider of MEDITECH-based solutions and support. "Healthcare organizations typically don't have the capital or human resources to build and maintain that type of technology infrastructure."

To solve this problem, Park Place is now offering its solutions and services in both dedicated and hybrid cloud environments. The company's OpSus cloud services provide Infrastructure-as-a-Service (IaaS) hosting and disaster recovery as well as remote support, management, archiving, and business analytics for MEDITECH users. Park Place executives view the cloud as a natural and seamless extension of its on-site infrastructure, integration, and support services.

"We're giving the user community a tremendous amount of choice," says Mark Middleton, vice president of OpSus cloud services at Park Place. "From infrastructure configuration and administration to application management and support, we can do it all, on-site or in the cloud."

In becoming a comprehensive cloud services provider, Park Place leaned heavily on Cisco® technology underpinnings and cloud expertise. The company purpose-built its data center to host MEDITECH solutions, utilizing the Cisco Unified Computing System™, which is based on Intel® Xeon® processors, and Cisco Nexus® 5000 and 2000 switches.

"With a unified infrastructure and centralized administration, we can quickly manage all of our cloud services from one place," says Brian Nelson, senior engineer at Park Place. "It's tremendously flexible, which enables us to align our service offerings with our customers' design requirements."

This flexibility means Park Place can deliver hybrid solutions, Fitzgerald explains, that make use of customers' onsite technology resources in tandem with OpSus cloud offerings.

"It used to be an all-or-nothing proposition: everything in the cloud or everything on-site," says Fitzgerald. "That's not always realistic, especially for organizations that want to take advantage of the cloud but have a lot invested in their data center. We have expertise and services that span both, and can deliver hybrid solutions that are tailored to a customer's technology requirements, business objectives, and operational needs."

More information

Park Place International helps customers create a multi-year, strategic technology plan, incorporating the best of private cloud, public cloud, and on-site solutions. For more information, contact customersfirst@parkplaceintl.com or visit: www.parkplaceintl.com.