Why Your Next Data Capture Solution Should be a Cloud-Native Application

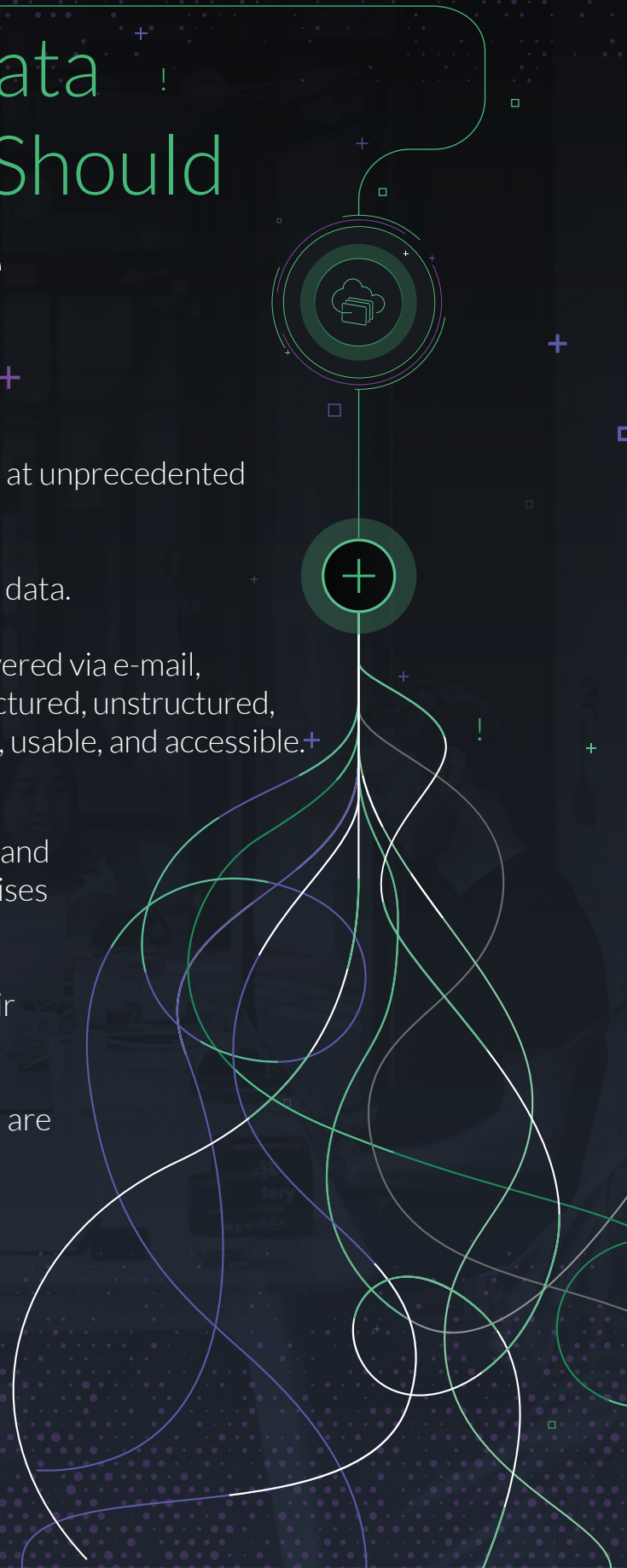In times like these, organizations must operate at unprecedented speed, efficiency, and scale.

This starts with deriving more value from their data.

Whether data is paper-based, digital born, delivered via e-mail, uploaded through the web, or resides on a structured, unstructured, or semi-structured document, it must be digital, usable, and accessible.

Creating a data-driven organization requires organizations to rethink the way they capture and manage mission-critical information. On premises data capture solutions aren't up to the task.

That's why more organizations are moving their data capture to the cloud.

Read on to learn why cloud-native applications are the future of data capture

Moving to the Cloud

Once considered a fad, the cloud has become a linchpin of how organizations source technology.

Compared to traditional on premises applications, where the software is deployed within the physical confines of the organization that is using the technology, cloud-enabled solutions use a distributed collection of computing resources and applications can reside anywhere on the accessible networks.

Putting most, if not all, of the burden of delivering software and managing the related infrastructure onto the shoulders of a cloud technology provider has big implications for organizations of all sizes.

Cloud-native applications build on the benefits of cloud-enabled solutions in several important ways:

Fast deployment. Few organizations have the appetite for long and risky application deployments these days. The cloud's on-demand computing paradigm eliminates the need to install software on premises and painstakingly integrate it into the organization's existing network infrastructure. This means organizations can be up and running with cloud solutions fast, no matter where their staff work, and with no disruption to existing processes and infrastructure. Cloud solutions also make it easier to train staff on the new application while staff work from home. Additionally, cloud solutions eliminate the need for professional services consultants to come on site to configure the software. Despite their fast deployment, cloud solutions also can be fully integrated with downstream systems such as an ERP.

Pay for what you use. On premises solutions require organizations to make a big upfront capital investment in software licenses, technical resources to deploy the solution, and professional services to fine-tune the solution to the organization's business needs. That can be a tough pill to swallow for organizations, especially in tough economic times. The big upfront expense that comes with deploying on premises solutions has stood in the way of many organizations automating. With cloud solutions, organizations only pay for what they use, typically on a subscription basis. It is easier for most organizations to justify the operating expense of cloud solutions versus the capital expense that on premises software requires. And budget-minded managers like knowing that the variable expense of a cloud solution eliminates the possibility of a big, unexpected capital expenditure as the organization grows.

Easier upkeep. Are all your back-office systems up to date? Didn't think so. Information management professionals have enough to do without managing all the tasks required to keep their software up to date and backed up. But that's what's required when you deploy on premises software. It's easy for things to slip through the cracks when you're trying to get important work done. Cloud-enabled applications take the burden of software upgrades, system maintenance, backups, storage, and data recovery off an information management professional's plate. The cloud provider takes care of it all for you. This is an especially big deal for organizations with limited IT resources and organizations that are growing fast.

Horsepower when you need it. Organizations typically configure on premises software to meet their needs at a point in time. More volume will require the organization to buy and deploy more software. Cloud-native solutions allow organizations to access the horsepower they need on-demand, so they can be sure they can seize opportunities without delay.

Ironclad security. Trying to keep up with security threats can be overwhelming. With on premises software, it's largely up to your organization to ensure that things stay buttoned up. One missed software release can leave your data vulnerable. Cloud-enabled applications put the onus on the technology provider to keep up with threats and ensure that measures are in place to safeguard your sensitive data. From encryption technology to user authentication, cloud providers use the latest security tools. While it's tempting to think that your data will be safer with software installed on-site, under your watchful eye, that simply isn't true.

Cloud solutions eliminate many of the issues that have stood in the way of data capture automation.

Cloud-Enabled versus Cloud-Native Applications

It's easy to see why organizations have been migrating to the cloud in droves

> The worldwide public cloud services market is forecast to grow more than 80 percent by 2022 to total $354.6 billion, up from $196.7 billion in 2018, according to Gartner.

Many organizations have deployed cloud-enabled applications to avoid the upfront capital expense and ongoing maintenance fees for on premises software. Some have deployed virtual machines in the cloud for disaster recovery. Others host databases in the cloud to achieve greater scalability.

Once organizations get a taste of the cloud, they want more. They want more than antiquated on-premises software that has been "lifted and shifted" to the cloud. That's where cloud-native applications come in. Cloud-native applications take cloud solutions to the next level.

"Cloud-native architectures help organizations optimize their use of cloud computing and empower organizations to deliver agile, automated, scalable and highly available digital solutions," IDC notes.

Cloud-native solutions are written, tested, deployed, and managed entirely in the cloud. Cloud-native applications are architected with microservices, independent modules designed to serve one purpose. Cloud-native applications go all-in on the cloud.

Cloud-native applications are indigenous to the cloud.

Cloud-native applications build on the benefits of cloud-enabled solutions in several important ways:

Less costly. Unlike cloud-enabled solutions, cloud-native applications do not require any upgrades to an organization's existing infrastructure, making them more affordable.

Fast implementation. Cloud-native data capture solutions can be deployed within days.

Enhanced user experience. Cloud-native applications integrate with any legacy processes and line of business systems – including enterprise resource planning (ERP) applications – providing users with seamless access to the data they need, when and where they need it. And leading cloud-native data capture solutions can use robotic process automation (RPA) to upload content into downstream systems, eliminating the need for manual data entry.

Latest technology. Leading cloud-native applications support DevOps processes, which speeds software development and customization through collaborative software delivery.

Easy upgrades. Because the microservices in a cloud-native solution operate independently of each other, technology providers can upgrade individual modules without impacting the entire application. This paves the way for faster, more frequent upgrades to the application. In fact, changes can be made to modules in real-time, in some cases, without disruption.

Simple management. With cloud-native solutions, organizations never have to worry about provisioning cloud instances, configuring networking, or allocating the necessary storage.

Optimum scalability. Cloud-native solutions were built from the ground up to run dynamic workloads and to perform complex computations within seconds, on a pay-per-use basis.

Clear data ownership. Unlike many cloud-enabled capture and ECM solutions, cloud-native data capture solutions don't rely on proprietary databases and APIs, which add significant cost and complexity if an organization chooses to migrate off the cloud-enabled solution.

Better security. Cloud-native solutions can be managed and secured independently of the infrastructure that supports them, providing peace of mind that sensitive data is secure.

Less downtime. The microservices design of cloud-native solutions isolates computing issues to help eliminate the possibility that an incident will take down the entire application.

People may use the terms 'cloud-enabled' and 'cloud-native' interchangeably. But there is clearly a big difference in what an organization can achieve by leveraging a cloud-native capture application.

35%

35% of production applications will be cloud native by 2022, IDC reports.

Accelerate your Cloud Journey

Cloud-native applications make the promise of the cloud real. Cloud-native applications do more than repurpose outdated architectures. The technology harnesses the power of the cloud to provide a foundation for digital transformation that is more cost-effective, efficient, adaptable, elastic, scalable, and secure. This makes cloud-native applications ideal for processes such as accounts payable, accounts receivable, healthcare claims processing, loan and mortgage processing, and employee onboarding. Cloud-native data capture applications eliminate the obstacles that have stood in the way of automation, enabling organizations to digitize and accelerate their information flows.

Move to the cloud with ibml and you will find new and better ways to capture your data.

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