

Authors:

Archana Venkatraman

George Mironescu

Margaret Adam

May 2019

"Over the next 4 years, IDC predicts that approximately 100 million new applications will be built in EMEA. To put this into perspective, this is equivalent to the number of applications developed in past 40 years!"



Red Hat and Atos Innovate for Successful Application Modernisation and Digital Platforms: An Executive Summary of Atos Managed OpenShift (AMOS)

Introduction: Why Application Modernisation?

Digital transformation means that business leaders want to innovate, to move with speed and be equipped to respond to rapidly changing customer demands and increased competition from more digitally native companies. IT is under pressure to support these needs by accelerating modernisation initiatives to help the business respond more quickly to both the challenges and the opportunities that the digital era creates.

This is resulting in a need to modernise the application environment and embark on a more platform-centric strategy for application development and delivery. Essentially, we are experiencing a fundamental change in how applications are built, deployed and updated. In fact, the very nature of what "is" an application is being challenged. This has been enabled by a combination of the growing maturity of cloud platform adoption, more modern, automated application deployment methodologies, such as DevOps, and the rapid growth of low-code tools and developers. The combination of these factors is leading to an explosion of new applications.

Red Hat and Atos have created a joint proposition to help their customers through the process of modernising their applications and deploying a platform strategy.

Key Challenges Associated With Application Modernisation and Platform Strategies

Assessing, classifying and matching the right workload with the right infrastructure and modernisation approach is a key challenge for companies looking to modernise their application landscape. Ripping and replacing applications is costly, and critical applications are typically still run on legacy infrastructure. Most companies also typically have a legacy organisational structure and culture where processes and operations haven't changed to support more agile working practices. These factors, combined with a general lack of skills and expertise available to deploy and manage cloud-native applications and platform environments, make application modernisation a costly and very challenging undertaking.

Many enterprises that embark on a digital transformation strategy find themselves in a situation where innovation efforts are siloed (pockets of innovation), with a lack of standardisation and integration. Standardising, automating and integrating

technologies within a digital platform is key to scaling transformation across the enterprise. The platform is the new battleground for innovation because it represents a paradigm shift in how applications are developed and deployed. Getting this right is key to becoming truly digitally transformed.

When developing a digital transformation (DX) platform strategy, companies are making decisions around the technologies and partnerships that help them scale their modernisation initiatives to the enterprise quickly and cost-efficiently. If migration is not done right when scaling, these challenges escalate, resulting in siloed application delivery platform modernisation, which is often ineffective and unsustainable. Enterprises that align their IT and platform investment with business objectives find more success and meet the top business considerations effectively.

How a company modernises, sustains and scales a DX platform and operations may be the most important determinant of their success for the next 10 years. This accelerates demand for open source solutions, as they want the flexibility of an open and portable environment that allows business units to adopt and use new technologies without worrying about lock-in. They also want to give their developers the freedom to use open technologies.

Red Hat and Atos Co-Invest in a Managed Service Designed for Hybrid Cloud Transformation

Atos Managed OpenShift (AMOS) was launched in 2018 and is the result of Red Hat and Atos co-investing to develop a managed service designed for the needs of large, global enterprise customers with complex and fragmented application environments. Built on Red Hat OpenShift, AMOS leverages the breadth and depth of open source capabilities in platform and application lifecycle management. Combining Red Hat's infrastructure and open source engineering expertise with Atos' application modernisation services enables the partnership to deliver full stack services for their customers' transformation and DX platform objectives.

The core value proposition of this solution is end-to-end ownership of the platform migration journey, coupled with deep enterprise-grade capabilities in application reengineering.

AMOS has been designed with a series of features aimed at eliminating the siloed efforts of application modernisation:

- Consistency, industrialisation and end-to-end value delivery.
- Cost predictability and containment of platform management.
- Tooling automation, platform/application integration and at-scale security.
- Application standardisation and business process transformation.

"Atos and Red Hat collaborated to deliver a managed service on the world's leading container platform, OpenShift, to give enterprises a blueprint to build a digital-native application infrastructure on the principles of consistency, repeatability and guarantee."

Florian Röhr, Atos

With AMOS, Atos helps its customers overcome many of the challenges associated with application modernisation:

- **Skills** — The automation and managed services features of AMOS help to address talent gaps. Atos' clients also benefit from Atos' talent, resources, services, technologies and deep engineering expertise. This combination can help enterprises overcome the skills challenges of platform and application transformation. The managed service also allows businesses to free up their developer staff from mundane operational tasks so they can focus on digital innovation.
- **Costs** — Atos helps businesses in the assessment of applications and the cost and asset impact of their implementation, as well as how to modernise legacy applications, all as part of its Application Modernisation and Migration (AMM) service.
- **Speed to Market** — A fully managed container platform means enterprises can leverage modern technologies quickly. Complementing the platform solutions, Atos has a portfolio of services to enable DevOps and modern development methodologies to further accelerate the speed of business. This also helps industrialise development, management, and operations.
- **Rapid Innovation** — AMOS helps to provide developers with open source tools and technologies, including containers, microservices and security to build new applications at scale and with consistency.
- **Openness and Interoperability** — AMOS allows frictionless movement of applications across multicloud and hybrid clouds with the mantra of "build once, run everywhere" because of OpenShift's native support of Kubernetes, the industry standard for container deployment.
- **Management and Security** — AMOS is enterprise-grade, thus mitigating the risks around the complex management and security of new container environments.
- **Bridging Old and New IT** — With experience across large, complex IT environments and multiple sectors, Atos and Red Hat can support both traditional legacy application environments and modern cloud-native environments.
- **Introducing New Methodologies** — Modern container platforms and microservices architectures offer newer ways of collaboration and application testing and development and help bring in DevOps.
- **Supplier Management** — Providing a unified, one-stop shop for IT management simplifies the transformation journey by avoiding multiparty involvement in the migration effort, so that customers can avoid "bolt-on" and the related management overheads for in-house IT.

"Atos has been the Innovation Partner of the Year, Middleware Partner of the Year, an important GSI partner, and essentially we have a trusted partnership to help customers mitigate the high risks of containerising legacy applications with transparent cost and risk assessment."

Steve Lumsden, Global Partner Account Manager, Red Hat

Future Outlook

To digitally transform, a long-term strategy is required to enable the ability to create, consume and discard applications at cloud-native speed. In order to do this, IDC advises a focus on three key elements:

1. Overcoming legacy cultural barriers by introducing change agents, encouraging cross-team collaboration and fostering a culture of innovation and ownership.
2. Embracing technologies that help lay the foundation for multicloud, software-defined architectures, automation and orchestration, and DevOps. Cloud and open source are launchpads for innovation and play a critical role in digital transformation. It's a balance of finding solutions that bring cloud scale and agility with enterprise-grade security, IT control and freedom from lock-in.
3. The last piece of the "speed" puzzle is automation. Automation plays a central role in allowing organisations to successfully deliver better performance. There is a clear realisation that automation positively impacts business productivity.

Conclusion

Enterprises need the technology, people and processes to enable agility and adaptability and adopt the right culture to capitalise on existing investments while transforming application delivery with optimised budgets. Ultimately, enhanced security, reduced downtime and speed of application deployment are the top priorities for next-generation management and automation strategies.

Atos and Red Hat are delivering new technologies, open source tools, automation and management at scale and costs that are within a customer's reach. The collaboration aims to make customers' application modernisation and platform strategies a reality so that they can compete effectively in this digital age.

IDC UK

5th Floor, Ealing Cross,
85 Uxbridge Road
London
W5 5TH, United Kingdom
44.208.987.7100
Twitter: @IDC
idc-community.com
www.idc.com

Copyright and Restrictions:

Any IDC information or reference to IDC that is to be used in advertising, press releases, or promotional materials requires prior written approval from IDC. For permission requests contact the Custom Solutions information line at 508-988-7610 or permissions@idc.com. Translation and/or localisation of this document require an additional license from IDC. For more information on IDC visit www.idc.com. For more information on IDC Custom Solutions, visit http://www.idc.com/prodserv/custom_solutions/index.jsp.

Global Headquarters: 5 Speen Street Framingham, MA 01701
USA P.508.872.8200
F.508.935.4015 www.idc.com.

Copyright 2019 IDC.
Reproduction is forbidden unless authorised. All rights reserved.

About IDC

International Data Corporation (IDC) is the premier global provider of market intelligence, advisory services, and events for the information technology, telecommunications and consumer technology markets. IDC helps IT professionals, business executives, and the investment community make fact-based decisions on technology purchases and business strategy. More than 1,100 IDC analysts provide global, regional, and local expertise on technology and industry opportunities and trends in over 110 countries worldwide. For 50 years, IDC has provided strategic insights to help our clients achieve their key business objectives. IDC is a subsidiary of IDG, the world's leading technology media, research, and events company.