The future is hybrid

inetum realdolmen
Positive digital flow

DISCOVER YOUR CLOUD MATCH WITH INETUM-REALDOLMEN.

Last year, for the first time, companies spent more on public cloud services than on their own data centers*. But this should not be seen as a sign that on-premises data centers are on the way out - far from it. More than ever, the future appears to be hybrid. This is what research agencies on all sides are predicting, and it is something we are seeing too among our own customers.

INETUM-REALDOLMEN PROVIDES INDEPENDENT ADVICE AND SUPPORT AT EVERY STAGE OF YOUR HYBRID CLOUD PROJECT:

1. ANALYSIS AND PLANNING:

We work with you to determine the requirements and possibilities for your organization. We can assist you with everything from simple introductory options to extensive roadmaps.

2. IMPLEMENTATION:

After analyzing your situation and needs, we look after implementing the chosen solution. We have all the necessary expertise and knowledge to implement a cloud solution from start to finish according to your needs.

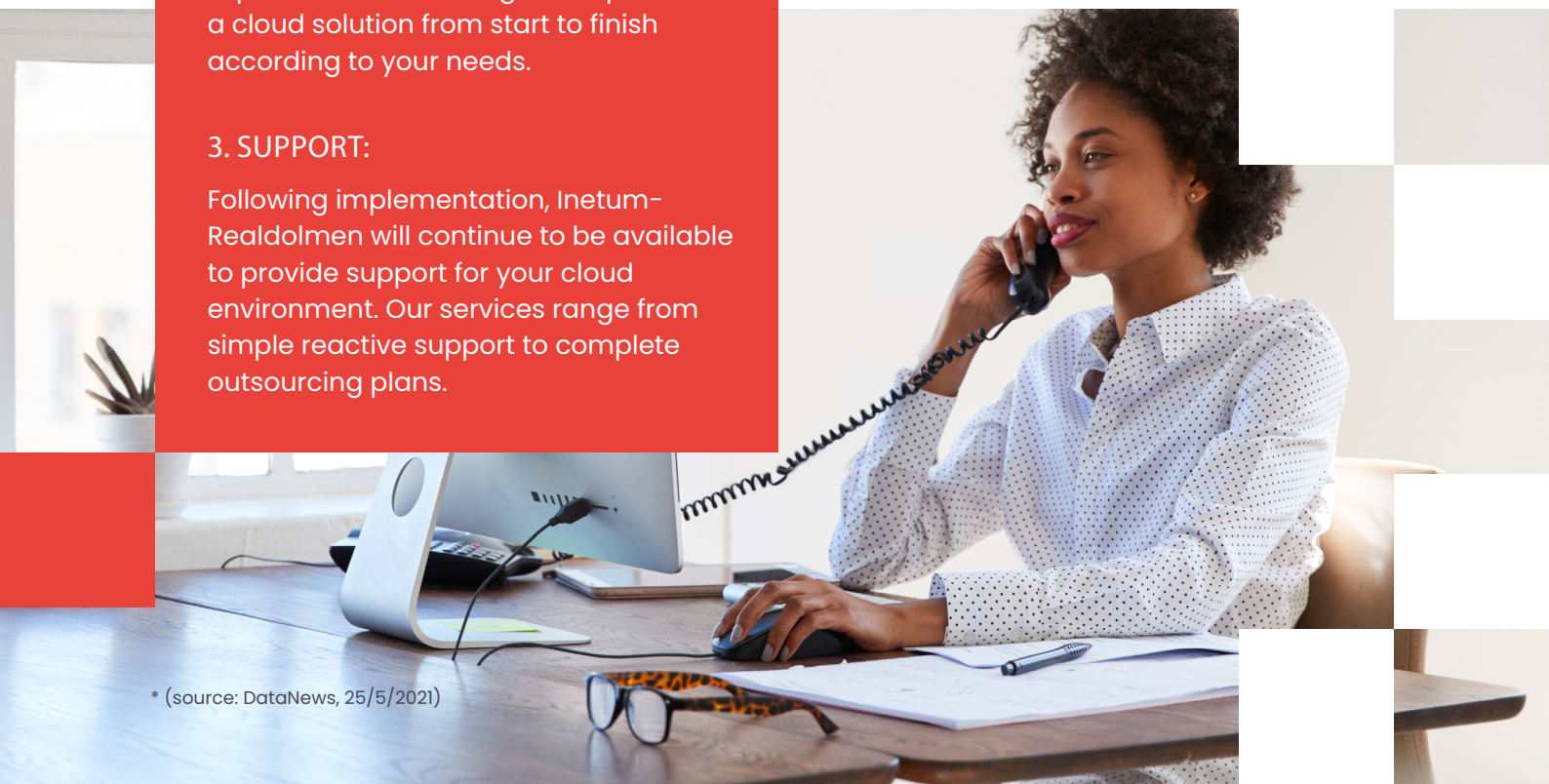
3. SUPPORT:

Following implementation, Inetum-Realdolmen will continue to be available to provide support for your cloud environment. Our services range from simple reactive support to complete outsourcing plans.

THE BEST OF ALL WORLDS…

As the digital transformation takes hold, the huge benefits of a hybrid cloud infrastructure are becoming ever more apparent to many organizations. Workloads are no longer tied to legacy infrastructure and suitable environments to house them. So what you need is an infrastructure that matches your existing workloads. One that enables you to benefit from the efficiency of the cloud and the resilience of your on-premises infrastructure. These days, this symbiosis finds its best expression in a hybrid infrastructure.

For most organizations, digital transformation requires modernization of their data center infrastructure. The aim is to roll out a hardware and software stack that works in private data centers, public clouds and edge facilities. But this in no way means doing away with the existing on-premises infrastructure. Instead, you want to build on those investments in a consistent way to make your infrastructure environments ready for the future. Modernization can take the form of a gradual migration, so it does not necessarily have to be a sprint. The important thing is to follow a clearly defined strategy, always keeping consistency in mind.



* (source: DataNews, 25/5/2021)

… AND THEIR CHALLENGES

1. UNDERSTANDING WORKLOADS

In many respects, developing and implementing a hybrid IT environment is like piecing a jigsaw puzzle together. It's not always clear what the picture will look like at the end. Hybrid IT or multi-cloud environments are gaining in popularity because they allow businesses to mix and match apps, services and platforms that work for their needs. These technologies are widespread, are changing all the time, and are being delivered at scale. By enhancing the operational resilience of legacy IT in the data centers with hybrid cloud services, companies can build a strong backbone for the delivery of business services.

When rolling out multicloud environments, it is therefore essential to understand the workloads that will run on the public and private cloud and those that will stay on-premise. After all, understanding what your applications do, how they communicate with end users and how they manage data and interact with networks, security profiles and performance, is fundamental. There are many choices to be made around implementation that require careful consideration – there's no such thing as a one-size-fits-all. This is because different workloads have different characteristics and every business is unique.

You need to weigh up the key decision factors, compare different options, and then align the workload to the right destination on the basis of specific business objectives. Ideally companies should aim for a situation where they can combine the flexibility of the public cloud with the availability and proximity of on-premises infrastructure.

CASE STUDY: VLAAMSE MAATSCHAPPIJ VOOR SOCIAAL WONEN:

PHASED MIGRATION TO HYBRID CLOUD

The Vlaamse Maatschappij voor Sociaal Wonen (VMSW) - a housing association based in Flanders - wanted to move toward the public cloud in gradual steps, while retaining the flexibility to switch between the various parts of their data center infrastructure. Inetum-Realdolmen is guiding the agency through this strategic transition with advice and assistance.

In anticipation of a full migration to the public cloud, we implemented a full migration of VMSW's data center to Rcloud, our private cloud based on HPE technology. We were the provider of the cloud services and assumed the role of service provider as a local partner, with the intention that we will ultimately take over as much of the administration as possible and additionally act in an advisory capacity. We are also helping VMSW with the process of defining which workloads could usefully be moved from our private cloud to the public cloud. The migration to the public cloud will take place in phases on the basis of a carefully considered step-by-step plan.

"We definitely preferred this phased approach, even if only to limit the risks. Inetum-Realdolmen supported us in this."
– Jan Dooms, ICT Director VMSW

2. SECURITY & NETWORKING

One of the greatest challenges of a hybrid architecture is the complexity that comes with it. Integrating different cloud solutions with regard to connectivity and security is not easy. The need for a secure, robust network infrastructure is therefore crucial. Here too, we provide support and relevant solutions as needed.

Security: When it comes to security, it's best not to put all your eggs in one basket. For this reason, we provide security solutions at different levels: for end users, for your organization, for your business.

Networking: In this age of "whenever, wherever, however" a robust and reliable network - one that above all is easy to manage - is more important than ever, but at the same time networks are becoming ever more complex. Not only due to IoT and the increase in connected devices, but also because of the shift toward wireless, the advent of the cloud, and sophisticated cybercrime. So if you are investing in an upgrade or modernization of your data center, your network infrastructure remains a key consideration.

CASE STUDY: MINTUS:

UPDATED DATA CENTER SUPPORTS INNOVATION IN CARE

To boost innovation in their care services, Bruge-based care provider Mintus invested in a top-to-bottom upgrade of its data center. This involved combining HPE server and storage systems with VMware virtualization technology. Inetum-Realdolmen led the project, ensuring it ran smoothly, and provided the necessary technical support following implementation.

"The ProLiant servers from HPE have already improved the performance of our data center. Our users tell us that they can now work faster," reports Kevin Devos, System Administrator at Mintus. "We also used HPE ProLiant servers for disaster recovery, in combination with VMware and backup software from Veeam. To provide additional protection against ransomware attacks, Inetum-Realdolmen also installed an extra layer of security in the backup system to ensure that backups cannot be encrypted in the event of an attack."

THE BENEFITS FOR YOU

Because hybrid cloud combines the best of different on-premise and cloud solutions, it has a lot of attractive benefits to offer:

MORE CONTROL
Your IT team can adapt the on-premise part of the hybrid model to suit the needs of your business and so maintain control over critical activities and data.

GREATER SCALABILITY
A hybrid infrastructure allows your organization to use the flexibility and power of the public cloud while keeping business-critical data and activities in the private cloud or an on-premise data center.

MORE SECURE
Organizations can decide where to position their data and workloads in the cloud, based on policy, compliance and security requirements.

COST-EFFECTIVE
Hybrid cloud storage is an attractive alternative from a cost perspective compared to a 100% private cloud solution. The latter can be expensive to keep up-to-date and to expand over time.

GUARANTEED BUSINESS CONTINUITY
In a hybrid environment, workload peaks can be shifted to the public cloud to avoid overloading private servers. It also allows you to back up your data by storing duplicate data in the cloud. This ensures that there is no interruption to business operations if a cyberattack occurs.

SUPPORT FOR YOUR MOST DEMANDING APPLICATIONS AND WORKLOADS

Switching to a hybrid cloud solution also makes demands in terms of a robust IT infrastructure or hyper-converged infrastructure. A hyper-converged infrastructure reduces the complexity of your IT infrastructure. It improves compatibility between processing power, storage and the network by housing everything in the same silo. The hypervisor assigns your hardware resources to virtual servers, switches and storage. This streamlines the management, implementation and scaling of all your resources, simplifying and increasing the efficiency of your IT infrastructure.

HPE Nimble Storage dHCI (disaggregated hyper-converged infrastructure) goes a step further than HCI and overcomes the limitations that prevent HCI from supporting demanding applications and workloads. **Driven by artificial intelligence**, dHCI delivers **simplicity and scalability in your virtualized environments**, all at a **lower TCO**. In a nutshell, **data storage for the smart age and the cloud era.**

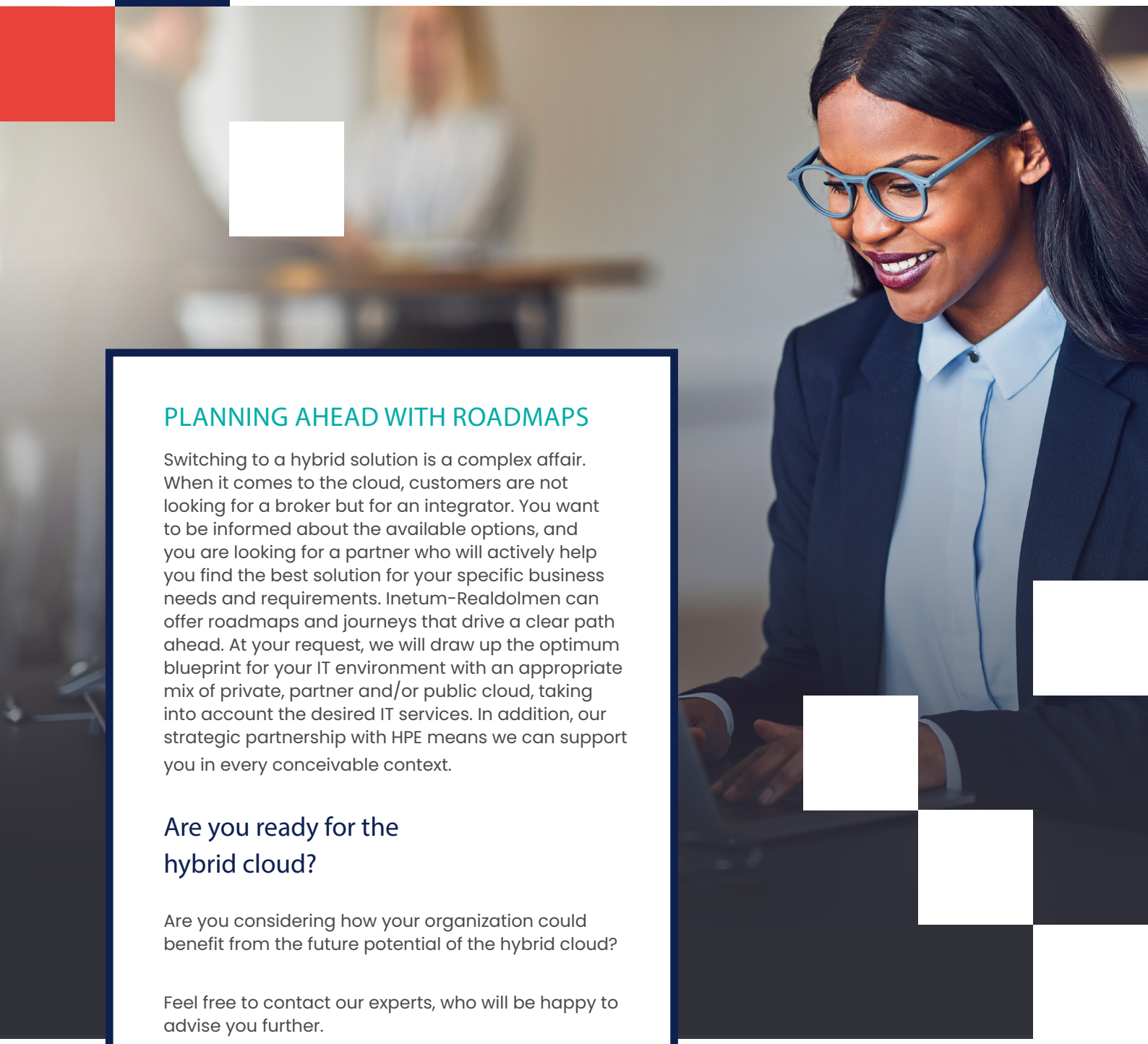
CASE STUDY: BASF:

FULL OUTSOURCING ALLOWS DIGITIZATION TO GO FULL STEAM AHEAD

Increasing digitization is allowing BASF to get much more use out of its Plant Information Management System (PIMS) than in the past. The company relies on the system for real-time control of its plants to ensure they perform at their best. To be able to roll out digitization further, BASF needed to switch to newer, more powerful software, which in turn demanded support by a more robust infrastructure.

In its search for new infrastructure, BASF turned to Inetum-Realdolmen, with whom it had prior experience. Inetum-Realdolmen proposed HPE Nimble Storage dHCI, a disaggregated hyperconverged infrastructure solution.

“HPE Nimble Storage dHCI gave us the right combination of scalability, performance and reliability,” reports Willem Van Lammeren, MES team lead at BASF. “As a chemical company, safety is our primary concern. That applies to our IT solutions as well. We were looking for a partner who could develop a redundant solution in order to meet these needs.”



PLANNING AHEAD WITH ROADMAPS

Switching to a hybrid solution is a complex affair. When it comes to the cloud, customers are not looking for a broker but for an integrator. You want to be informed about the available options, and you are looking for a partner who will actively help you find the best solution for your specific business needs and requirements. Inetum-Realdolmen can offer roadmaps and journeys that drive a clear path ahead. At your request, we will draw up the optimum blueprint for your IT environment with an appropriate mix of private, partner and/or public cloud, taking into account the desired IT services. In addition, our strategic partnership with HPE means we can support you in every conceivable context.

Are you ready for the hybrid cloud?

Are you considering how your organization could benefit from the future potential of the hybrid cloud?

Feel free to contact our experts, who will be happy to advise you further.

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