A hybrid cloud strategy can allow you to move some of your application workload from distributed systems to the public cloud in order to reduce administrative burden and costs associated with maintaining it in the data center. For some applications, this is a practical and cost-effective strategy. However, many organizations aren’t ready to trust their mission- and business-critical applications to the public cloud. That’s where Linux on IBM Z® and LinuxONE comes in.

Why Linux on IBM Z and LinuxONE is the perfect platform for your enterprise hybrid cloud strategy

Hundreds of the world’s top enterprises trust their critical applications and data to IBM® zSystems mainframes because of the unsurpassed levels of performance, availability and security that the platform consistently provides. Those advantages extend easily to Linux workloads through the use of IFL specialty processors that run Linux natively on the mainframe, which makes IBM zSystems an ideal platform for consolidating business-critical Linux workloads.

It also makes IBM zSystems the perfect basis for enterprise hybrid cloud. While many Linux-based organizations know there’s a great business case to be made for moving workload to the public cloud, they aren’t ready to move business-critical applications and data out of their data centers. With Linux on IBM Z and LinuxONE, they don’t have to.

The resulting mainframe-based hybrid cloud solution will allow you to achieve all the goals of reliability, security and maximum application performance you need for your business-critical applications, along with the advantages of a cost-effective public cloud strategy.

**Start building a smarter hybrid cloud today**

Consolidating workload from distributed x86 servers to Linux on IBM zSystems provides a number of major business, technical, cost, compliance and administrative benefits, including:

- **Maximum reliability and availability.** Organizations require the greatest possible systems reliability and availability for mission-critical applications, including recoverability of systems and data integrity for transactions.

- **Significantly better performance.** Due to the direct system-level connectivity between applications running on the IFLs and Db2® data running under z/OS®, the single hardware platform dramatically improves I/O performance, lowering latency for data-intensive transactions and improving batch processing times.

- **Better security.** Business-critical applications and Db2 data are running on a single platform, eliminating points of possible compromise. From the hardened z/VM hypervisor to native security features like RACF® to the fact that there is no vulnerability through network or host bus adapters, the entire platform is inherently more secure.

- **Lower operating costs.** Consolidating workload onto IFLs can eliminate up to hundreds or even thousands of servers on multiple racks, reducing hardware and environmental costs in their data center, not to mention the cost of cabling and managing all the disparate parts.

- **Simplified administration.** Migrating applications onto Linux on IBM Z means just one platform, one hypervisor, and less hardware and networking, dramatically simplifying administration for hardware, operating systems and security.

- **Reduced software costs.** Migrating from partially used cores to optimized IFLs can realize significant savings on software license fees.

- **Simplified compliance.** Standardizing on a single IBM zSystems hardware platform allows direct connection between applications and data, which is further secured with the mainframe’s proven security features such as data encryption and RACF for access control and auditing functionality can make compliance audits significantly faster and easier.

- **Better backup and recovery.** DR. Migrating workload to IBM zSystems offers better resiliency options through native solutions like GDPS.

**Reap all the advantages of migrating to Linux on IBM Z**

Migrating your critical workloads to Linux on IBM Z provides all the benefits you would expect from the world’s most trusted, secure and high-performing platform, while giving you the flexibility of hosting less-critical applications in the public cloud. This also enables a longer-term strategy for the possibility of eventually moving all hardware out of the data center into a hosted, hybrid cloud environment combining the cost-effectiveness of public cloud with the reliability and security of a private cloud based on IBM zSystems.

In addition to the obvious advantages of reduced footprint and energy requirements in the data center, consolidating workload from partially utilized x86 cores can also substantially reduce your software licensing costs. And the savings can be significant enough to completely offset the migration.

Time, effort and cost can be further reduced because you’ll be able to leverage the existing investments in your homegrown and third-party applications, without requiring a ground-up rearchitecting for the cloud.

For more information, please contact your CDW representative.