4 technology trends shaping the future of business in South Africa

From hybrid cloud environments to edge computing, technology (and access to world-class infrastructure and solutions) is driving growth across the continent.

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Technology is an ever-evolving landscape as digital enablement continues to dominate and organisations continue to leverage networking capabilities to access local and global growth opportunities.

Here are four technology trends that organisations should be aware of for 2022 and beyond:

Trend #1: The hybrid cloud environment

IT infrastructure is moving from a multi cloud to a hybrid cloud environment. It's therefore critical for organisations to gain visibility of their hybrid estate and understand the characteristics of the ideal deployment model for each workload.

Organisations will need the right tools, processes, and skills to architect, migrate, and manage the hybrid infrastructure that houses business applications. In addition, they need to define an approach to harness the data created by infrastructure, and access intelligence and possible opportunities in an agile environment across multiple platforms. They'll also need to address new security challenges. This level of skills, expertise, technology, and real estate required is a huge investment it undertaken alone.

Trend #2: Compliance is critical

Organisations face a growing number of regulatory compliance obligations around energy consumption and sustainability. These increasing obligations have led to the enhanced adoption of wholesale and colocation services. The advantages of a sustainable data centre include cost reductions, a reduced carbon footprint as a result of the use of energy efficient powe systems and buildings, as well as reducing the cost of power and cooling.

Trend #3: Infrastructure must be secure by design

Security and compliance become central to infrastructure design. Looking at all the trends affecting the infrastructure environment, we can expect to see greater collaboration between infrastructure designers and providers, and security

practitioners. Organisations need to be aware of the myriad security risks inherent in their infrastructure so they can build the right controls from the start. Adopting a 'built-in' instead of a 'bolt-on' approach will ensure that infrastructure is secure design.

Trend 4: Connectivity at the edge

To fully leverage the benefit of new connectivity options, you need the right underlying management platforms and process to deal with multiple connectivity technologies. Focusing on your SD-WAN strategy, software-defined access, and intent-based networking will help drive more agility in how you upgrade your infrastructure as and when technologies like 5G and Wi-Fi 6 become mainstream.

Staying ahead of technology trends

The volume of data pouring into data centres continues to climb, driven by ever greater connectivity demands and accelerating cloud adoption. This is fast-tracking the need for businesses to rethink their ability to evolve their physical lay infrastructure in the data center, which will ultimately be the key to keeping pace (and outstripping) competitors thanks to I latency, high-bandwidth, and reliable connectivity.

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