



Infrastructure Development Workshop

The Infrastructure Development Workshop is designed to help clients align parallel (but often disconnected) strategies and architectures of key technologies in the Data Center, including virtualization, servers, storage, networks, management tools, etc. Over the course of a one-day workshop session, En Pointe IT Solutions' Architects will facilitate a structured process for collaborative discussion and education on key technologies and industry best practices as they might benefit a client's data center strategy. The ultimate goal and deliverable of the Workshop is to develop a roadmap of initiatives by which the client and En Pointe IT Solutions can work together to transform the data center infrastructure over time to deliver a measurable, positive business impact. Often, this process enables clients to accelerate their data center strategy by finding cost reduction opportunities in both capital investment and operational expenses associated with upcoming projects.

IT/Business Strategy Discussion

In order for En Pointe IT Solutions to help a client make successful technology decisions, it is important that we understand the business goals and objectives behind them. To that end, it is important that key IT leaders (such as the CIO, VPs, and Directors) as well as technical architects participate in the workshop to provide information on topics such as these:

- Goals, priorities, initiatives for 2021/2022 (and beyond)
- Decision criteria for new projects, technologies
- Potential constraints/challenges to strategy

Data Center Infrastructure Review

During the workshop, En Pointe IT Solutions Architects will also perform a high-level gap analysis of current state versus the desired goals and objectives for key data center technologies and their alignment to the core IT/Business strategy. This will include high-level discussion of architectures, platforms, standards, processes, challenges, and future projects. A key goal is to identify areas of opportunity where the client may receive synergies and multiplicative cost savings when specific best-of-breed technologies are deployed and integrated as part of a data center infrastructure development and design strategy. An Infrastructure Development Workshop will generally include discussion and analysis of each of the following areas:

<i>Infrastructure Segment</i>	<i>Operating Environment</i>
Facilities	Power & Cooling, Operational Space, Hybrid Cloud
Compute	Systems Hardware, Operating Environments
Networking	LAN, WAN, WiFi, NSR, IoT
Storage	Tier Levels, BU&R, Long Term Data Retention
Virtualization	Hybrid Cloud, Hypervisors, Applications, On/Off-Premise
Orchestration Applications	Management Tools, Provisioning, Deployment
Disaster Recovery	Physical, Virtual, Site Recovery, Cloud/Hybrid Cloud

Roadmap Development

After the current state and desired future state is determined for each of the above infrastructure layers, a gap analysis is performed to identify specific decisions, initiatives, and projects that would be required take each layer to the desired infrastructure maturity in regards to the ultimate goals and strategy for the data center as a whole. Each of these initiatives are then prioritized based on interdependencies, milestones, and business priority in order to create a structured roadmap of infrastructure design and development. Often, the very first step of any roadmap will consist of a formal Planning and Design engagement to validate the roadmap through development of a comprehensive infrastructure design and analysis of cost justification and Return on Investment (ROI) to show the benefit to our client's business.

En Pointe IT Solutions is committed to helping each client meet its data center objectives. The Infrastructure Development Workshop is the first, and potentially most important, step in developing a data center strategy that provides business agility, quality of service, and maximizes the return on investment of technology deployment.