



## Clouds will reduce IT employment

By David Heath

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It stands to reason: the more we consolidate our computing resources, the fewer people we need to maintain those resources. Major vendors agree - employment will fall as a result.

At a recent IT press event, representatives of Cisco, Hewlett Packard, Alcatel Lucent and Brocade were asked for their opinions on the evolution of the cloud and its impact on data centres.

All were of the opinion that Cloud technologies offer customers the chance to consolidate their infrastructure into a more efficient arrangement; however, there were subtle issues this might uncover.

For many years, IT vendors have offered the benefits of "the economy of scale," the ability to do more with less. But this has always been at the expense of those with detailed knowledge of the status quo.

This author's own experiences in Canberra during the "great period of outsourcing" (in the mid 1990s) made it very obvious that consolidation of resources (both equipment and human) led to a great deal of homogenisation of the offering and the business nuances which could be satisfactorily addressed. A great deal of 'history,' in terms of business process and reasons for the current state of affairs, left the organisations in the heads of those who had no place in the new structures.

At the NetEvents Press Summit, Bernie Trudel, Cloud CTO, APAC, Cisco noted "the whole paradigm shift behind cloud and cloud as an IT delivery model is to make more efficient use of the infrastructure and having the right infrastructure for the right level of service." Echoing this, Steve Dietch, VP of Cloud Infrastructure, HP noted "There are some that are very, very clearly making money," and that isn't going to happen simply by re-implementing the current environments.

John McHugh, Chief Marketing Officer for Brocade noted that the cloud is "going to inherently simplify the deployment of the business applications that customers need in the local datacentre and throughout the cloud."

Of course this isn't confined to the IT foot soldiers. John McHugh makes a clear case that future employment risks may be seen all the way up the IT management chain: "Simply stated, CIOs and information technology experts need to focus on the I in IT, not the T. If your whole reason for being is being the operator of your data centre or the equipment in your data centre, then yes, your job's in jeopardy."

The author attended the Press Summit as a guest of NetEvents.

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