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Cloud transition not so simple

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Contrary to what vendors claim, businesses aiming to make the transition to cloud services will find it is not a simple prospect, whether that involves copying virtual machines from enterprise data centres or considering other forms of deployment.



That is the view held by panellists in a discussion on "getting the cloud infrastructure right" during the NetEvents summit in Portugal.

Emir Halilovic, an International Data Corporation (IDC) research director for telecoms and networking in Europe, the Middle East and Africa, said although cloud adoption among small and medium enterprises in the region continues to grow, companies often face problems with the architecture of their networks as they make the transition.

"There are a whole lot of issues arising from network bottlenecks, showing a need for revising the way infrastructure is laid out as companies move to the cloud. In some instances, networks are not well suited to the changes," he noted.

Hamid Lalani, product lifecycle manager at HP, said companies ought to move to the cloud at their own pace, as opposed to jumping on the bandwagon, which might not be in their best interests. "It should be based on what a company has in terms of investment capacity and where they are as a business. The scale of investment held by the likes of Uber, for example, would vastly differ from Procter & Gamble.

"What we have found from the enterprises is that they are less interested in concepts and ideas of cloud, but rather what it does to solve problems. People's capacity to solve problems is driving their decisions," commented Lalani.

He added customers want any deployment to take place without drastically changing the level of user experiences.

Meanwhile, Jorg Ruhmann, senior technical director for Europe, Middle East and Africa at Infinera, said the increasingly intricate and complex developments in cloud infrastructure and deployment could create a need for greater specialist skills, which could also affect future implementation costs.