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Lenovo ThinkAgile CP Series: A fully featured turnkey private cloud, with fast deployment and easy management

Private cloud platforms typically require significant initial and ongoing investments in time, staff resources, and money. A new product from Lenovo can offer the benefits of the private cloud with much less time and effort, freeing up resources to tackle your organization's critical goals.

At Principled Technologies, we found Lenovo™ ThinkAgile™ CP offers the following benefits:

- **Rapid deployment:** ThinkAgile CP deployment required just a few hours, while application deployment took seconds
- **Simple management:** Common management tasks were completed in just a few steps by our IT generalist administrator
- **Key private cloud benefits**, including:
  - On-demand delivery of resources
  - Easy-to-use self-service experience—users can find a VM template in less than 22 seconds
  - Built-in, secure multi-tenancy
  - Orchestration of application delivery
  - Metering features to support chargeback—creating metering reports takes less than a minute of work

This executive summary shows how the easy deployment and simple management of Lenovo ThinkAgile CP can help you overcome common pitfalls of a DIY private cloud solution and provide value to your business operations.

Executive summary

Crate to cloud in about
5 hours, 15 minutes

On-demand, self-service application delivery in
under 30 seconds

Maintenance updates[1] with
zero hands-on effort

Our experience with Lenovo ThinkAgile CP

Deploying private cloud platforms is rarely simple, even for experienced administrators. From staff and finances to complex infrastructure, the challenges of a traditional private cloud affect several areas of your organization. But Lenovo ThinkAgile CP aims to make having an on-premises private cloud platform as easy and hands-off as possible. Here's a taste of our experience.

Deployment

After the hardware arrived at our doorstep, ThinkAgile CP deployment services came to set up the platform. The hardware came pre-cabled, so the **only work required was verification and site configuration.** The services team spent five hours and 15 minutes performing deployment tasks. Our IT generalist just needed to provide the deployment team with network information.

Management

Our IT generalist acted as the cloud administrator and easily accomplished a dozen common management tasks in just a few steps. Each task took less than a minute of his time, with **10 of 12 tasks requiring less than 30 seconds** to complete. Many routine management tasks—such as adding or modifying VM networks, creating VM templates, and deploying VMs—can also be delegated to self-service users, empowering them with IT resources on demand rather than forcing them to wait for an administrator to get to their request.[2] We tested several use cases, including multi-tenancy operations, self-service provisioning, VM management, and metering and billing.

Maintenance updates

We didn't need to do any real work to apply maintenance updates to ThinkAgile CP. We simply received a notification that an update would occur at a specified time with the option to reschedule if the update would require downtime. The complete ThinkAgile CP software stack—including the network interconnect software, hypervisor, and storage OS—received updates that took just **62 minutes and zero hands-on effort** from our IT generalist.

Conclusion

Think about your current cloud strategy. Without a ready-to-go platform, will your IT staff be able to deliver and maintain an easy-to-use self-service cloud in a timely, cost-effective manner? If you have doubts about your current approach, consider how your organization could benefit from the results we found in our ThinkAgile CP testing.

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1   Here, we define "maintenance updates" as updates to the network interconnects, hypervisor, and storage software.

2   Edited 10/2019; Upon publication in 2018, this text was based on Cloudistics documentation. As of H2 2019, that documentation is no longer available.

Read the report at http://facts.pt/8j2vwr ▶

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