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Database-as-a-Service

Unified orchestration and automation of database management processes in hybrid and multicloud environments

This document is based on the content presented at an IDC Italy webinar sponsored by Nutanix and Accenture, held in January 2022. The event topic was about Database-as-a-Service, a vision enabling IT departments to innovate the database management processes in the context of digital transformation. Participants to the live event were Italian cross-industry technology and innovation managers.

In a digital-first world, entities and people are more connected than ever. Evolving market expectations and competition force organizations to continuously launch new digital products and services, while modernizing their legacy architectures and processes.

Global and Italian organizations are accelerating their software development capabilities. According to IDC, by 2022, organizations that allocate 50+% of their software development projects to customer-facing initiatives will see revenue grow 15% faster compared to those that focus more on internal projects. Furthermore, by 2024, digital-first enterprises will enable empathetic customer experiences and resilient operating models by shifting 70% of all technology and services spending to as-a-service and outcomes-centric models.

Hybrid and multicloud have become the foundational environments for most businesses. Almost 80% of Italian organizations see a coexistence of on-premises and cloud resources. And about 84% of European companies have in place, or have in plan within a year, a hybrid cloud strategy.

Ecosystems and value chains are increasingly interdependent and need to intelligently leverage data to their advantage. However, managing data in heterogeneous environments is a primary challenge for IT organizations. IDC surveys show that current structured data workloads within organizations run on a complex mix of packaged, customized and open source solutions.

Not surprisingly, 73% of organizations have different database management processes between on-premises and cloud deployments. Leveraging a unified and automated platform for database management may bring significant benefits from back up and recovery to data security, efficient resource planning and provisioning, optimization of cloning, patching, and so on. About 63% of respondents interviewed by IDC believe that a common platform for managing database related processes in hybrid cloud would be very or extremely beneficial.

Nutanix and Accenture Vision, and Customer Testimonial

During the webinar, Nutanix and Accenture provided a comprehensive, integrated vision as well as practical methods that are supporting organizations in the goal of making database management processes simple and efficient.

Nutanix delivers modern hyperconverged infrastructures allowing organizations to run their workloads in hybrid, multicloud, distributed environments. From a technology perspective, Nutanix illustrated how its Database-as-a-Service solution laying on this foundation offers a single management console (Control Plane) for multiple DB engines, enabling automation and self service operations along a wide range of applications and database management tasks. Accenture brought in the discussion its role of innovation partner and experienced system integrator, helping organizations in the design and execution of the complex transition to modern database management processes in a hybrid and multicloud world.

From a solution roadmap perspective, the partnership between the two players in Italy leverages a joint engineering effort which takes place in the Accenture Cloud Innovation Center (ACIC). It represents a center of design thinking and co-creation, where multiple business and technology expertises come together to address the challenges that clients and prospect are facing in their cloud and digital transformation roadmaps. A live demo during the webinar provided a visual tour of the joint database automation platform in action. Online attendees had the chance to discover how the solution works through four examples of critical IT operation processes affecting database environments and lifecycle: resource provisioning, migration from legacy databases, cloning and patching.

The event was enriched by the important presence of an invited company, Sogei, acting in the Italian public services ecosystem, that is experiencing database management automation as part of its evolving IT operating model. Sogei is the Information and Communication Technology Company of the Ministry of the Economy and Finance in Italy. The company is committed to a significant innovation of the business architectures enabling digital services and modern citizen experience. With the acceleration of the digital developments, the role of the company is strategic in delivering innovative services. Data is crucial in this scenario, and database-as-a-service represents a critical component of the new IT model. The back-end is bypassing the traditional silo-based approach in favour of an open, ecosystem-based architectural framework. The as-a-service paradigm is becoming increasingly pervasive along the entire IT stack, including the database layer, and that is why Sogei has adopted the database-as-a-service paradigm to offer to all its public sector customers database services from a unified portal. Benefits of database-as-a-service are already measured - and further will come - along different processes: from DevOps practices enhancement to standardization and automation of database administration and IT operations (provisioning, back up and recovery, data protection, cloning, patching etc.). Last but not least, making the database-as-a-service capability available through the internal self-service portal is in line with the overall goal of being impactful in terms of both operational efficiency and outcome-based results.

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