ENQUIZIT
A CDW COMPANY

The Future Is NoOps:

5 Reasons To Embrace—Not Fear—This New Model

The future is here, and it belongs to NoOps. Short for "No Operations," NoOps refers to an automated IT environment that operates with a minimum of human maintenance. The result? Faster operations with vastly fewer errors and security risks – and no need for a dedicated operations team.

Such a fundamental change can sound intimidating. But there's nothing to fear, as NoOps is simply a continuation of a process that has been underway for more than a decade: the move to the cloud. This transition, with its virtualization of servers and other functions, has already proven to reduce operations costs for many organizations – in some cases, drastically.

NoOps simply expands and builds upon these initiatives. And with the development of new services such as automated remediation, which automates the process of problem resolution, the field of NoOps is set to grow exponentially in coming years. In this e-book, we'll lay out all the reasons to embrace—and not fear—the transition to NoOps.

1 Resistance is futile

Here's the truth: NoOps is coming, whether you like it or not. And that's a good thing.

Today, many operations teams simply cannot keep up with the post-cloud world. And because they're overwhelmed, these teams often fail to utilize cloud tools that are already widely available. Unable to sift through the "white noise" of new technologies, these teams fall farther and farther behind the latest developments and eventually become stagnant. Stuck in a cycle of constant software maintenance, companies find themselves becoming, by default, software companies – even when that is not their primary mission.

By automating maintenance and operations, NoOps offers a way out of this vicious cycle. Rather than software eating up your time and budget, it can return to what it is supposed to be: a tool that allows you to complete your mission as a company or organization.

Don't Get Left Behind

NoOps is coming. Faced with the inevitable, there are only two options. You can become an early adopter, seizing the market opportunities that emerge from being at the front. Or you can be a reluctant late adopter—and miss out on new business or other opportunities. Rather than fighting what is coming anyway, why not reap the market advantages of being out in front of the curve?

2 NoOps moves your org from reactive to proactive

Many operations teams are overwhelmed, trapped in systems that require constant maintenance. The daily struggle to "polish off the rust" may feel important—but it's not proactive. Instead of adding value to the company, these teams simply maintain the status quo. On an emotional level, getting stuck on the maintenance "hamster wheel" can lead to IT departments feeling detached from the corporate mission. And with good reason: instead of contributing to their organization's vision, they feel underutilized.

What if your IT personnel could focus on new and creative tasks, aligned with corporate goals? This is what NoOps accomplishes: taking your org out of a defensive mindset and back on offense. Instead of "how can we prevent decay?" the question becomes "how can we add value?" We'll talk more about this below.

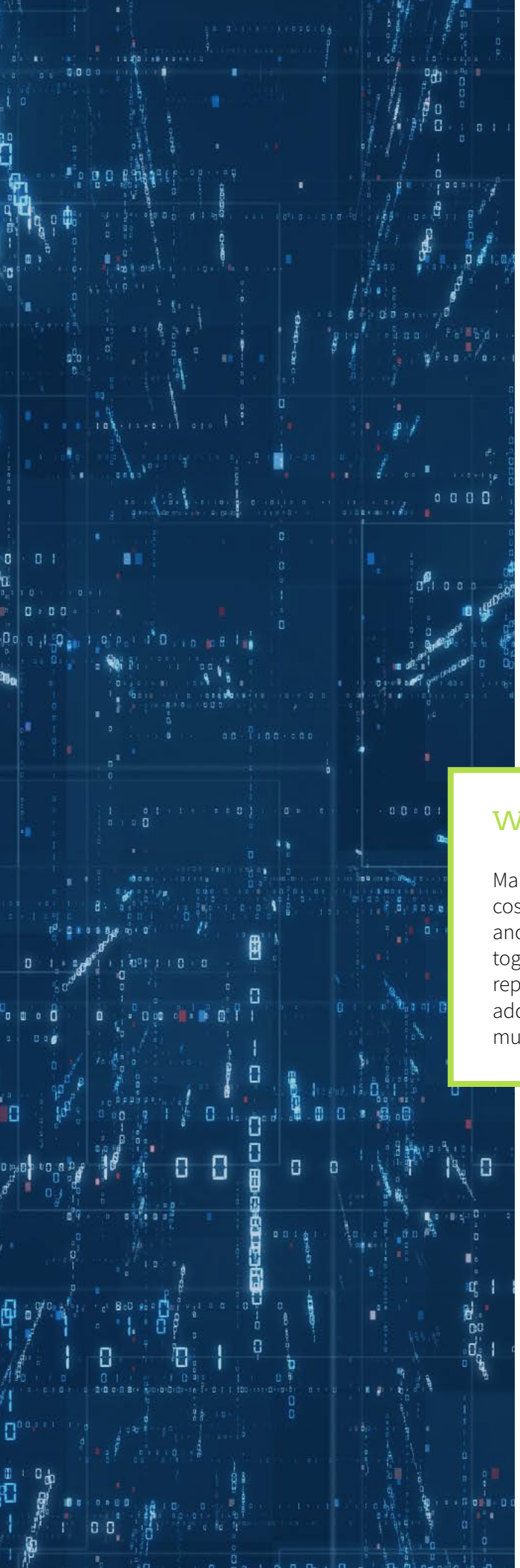
3 The move to NoOps is already happening in your org

If you look around carefully, you'll probably discover something surprising: ***the move to NoOps is already happening in your org***. Today, most developers are thinking about automation and flexibility as they write new apps. As your code becomes more modular, you can run portions in any system—including the cloud. In short, today's apps are much more plug-and-play.

At the same time, Platform-as-a-Service (PaaS) is gaining ground, allowing organizations to outsource their computing to third-party providers and avoid the complexity of building and maintaining the underlying structure in-house. In a PaaS environment, your current code can be both plug-and-play and automated.

It's true that some older apps will eventually need to be rewritten for NoOps, but the newer generation is already halfway there. As you continue your transition to NoOps, then, think about what is already working for you—and replicate those processes.

The baby steps that you've been taking toward NoOps should be encouraging. You don't have to convert to NoOps all at once—and you never have to achieve 100%. The question to keep asking is: "How much NoOps can we do right now—and at what speed?" As in so many facets of life, the journey is the destination.



4 NoOps reduces total cost of operations (TCO)

For many organizations, so much operational time and money is spent on maintaining the status quo that it becomes hard to define the total cost of operations (TCO). In a worst-case scenario, operations budgets become so ill-defined that they resemble a sort of black hole.

NoOps reduces TCO and brings clarity to operations in several ways:

- NoOps directly lowers personnel costs for operational tech engineers and service desk and management personnel.
- Adding automation vastly reduces errors and security issues, which indirectly decreases security and compliance costs.
- With automation comes higher uptime, greater user satisfaction, and, best of all, fewer complaints to handle.

What's Your Real TCO?

Many organizations vastly underestimate their TCO, only including direct costs like hardware and software upgrades. They often forget to include ancillary expenses such as electricity, air conditioning, rent, and taxes, together with the costs of missed opportunities—like the inability to repurpose real estate or missed service level agreements (SLAs). If you can add together all of these factors to calculate your true TCO, you will have a much clearer picture of what you can save with NoOps.

Bottom line? Better productivity across the board, along with a much clearer understanding of what you are spending, where, and how.

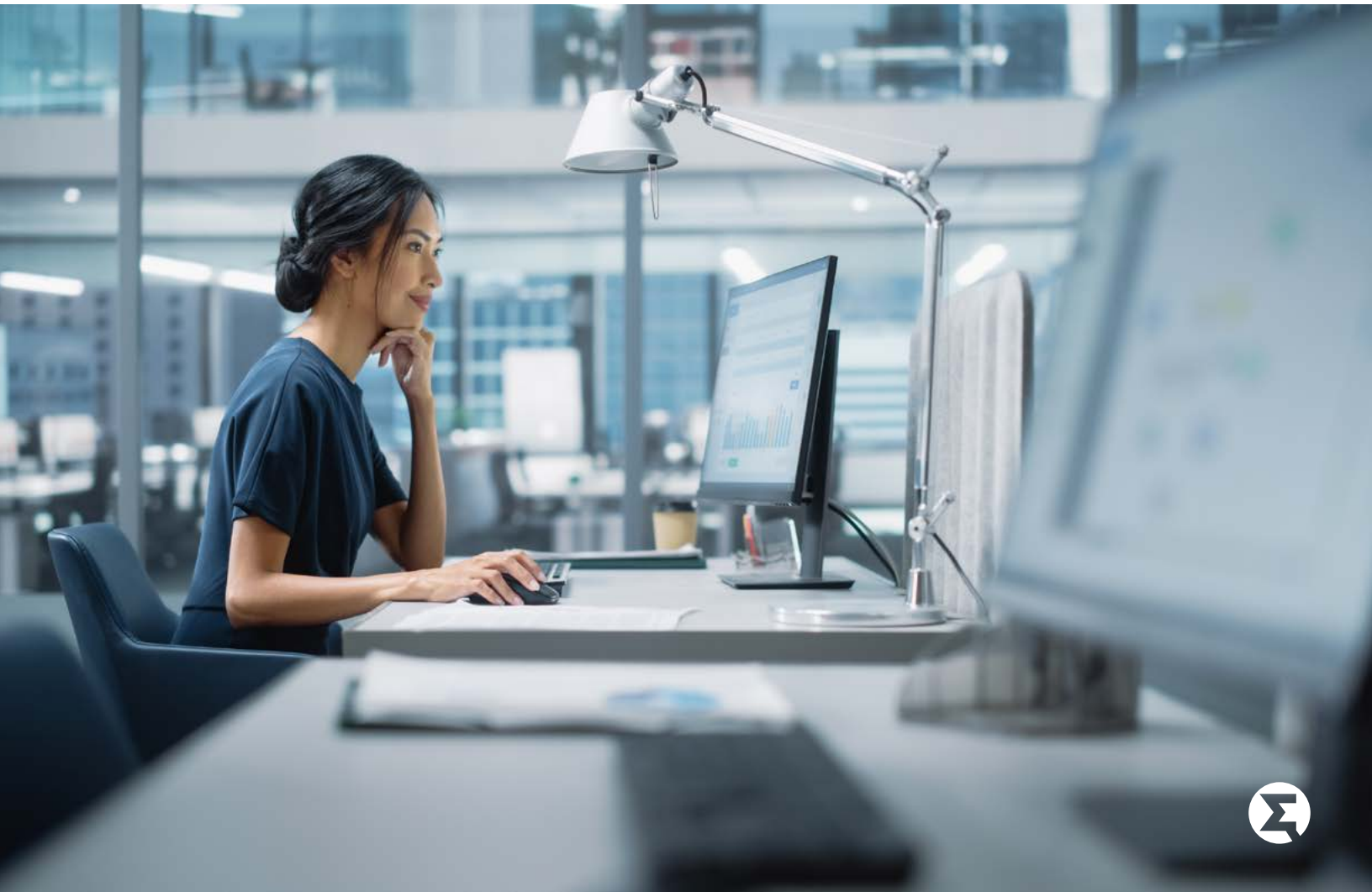
When applied across your entire system, NoOps acts as a cost-savings force multiplier. Consider that organizations that move to the Amazon Web Services (AWS) Cloud experience, on average, a 50% reduction in TCO, over 500 hours per year of server configuration time saved, a 75% increase in launch-rate for new products, and a decrease in power consumption of 10 megawatts per year. Moving to the cloud is the first step toward NoOps, and provides an idea of the game-changing power that NoOps can bring to your operating budget.

5 Recruit and retain the best talent with NoOps

What could your IT team be contributing if they weren't bogged down with nonstop maintenance requirements?

When it comes to tech talent, we're experiencing a worldwide drought. According to U.S. Labor Department estimates, the shortage of software engineers could reach 85.2 million by 2030. As recruiting becomes an urgent priority, it will be easier to hire and retain talent for tech positions that call for creativity and strategic thinking—rather than mere maintenance.

While new hires are being trained to optimize the system, you can create buy-in with your existing team by outlining what their new roles will be, and how they can contribute in ways that highlight both their abilities and experience. In the transition to NoOps, you will need operational guidance as you go along, and here is where the know-how of your veterans will be invaluable. End result? An organization where both new and existing staff are freed to maximize their potential represents a strong selling point that will differentiate your org in a tight labor market.



Automation for Creativity

Automation gets a bad rap, conjuring up an image of humans being replaced by machines. But here's what automation can actually do: free up your team to focus on what you do best. It's hard to overstate the transformative power of NoOps in an organization, not only in terms of savings but also in terms of liberating creative potential. After so many years of expending energy just to maintain the status quo, you will be amazed at the difference. And that difference will be reflected in morale, productivity, innovation – and yes, your bottom line.

However intuitive the arguments for NoOps are, sometimes outside help is needed to get the ball rolling. And that's where Enquizit comes in. We are an experienced AWS Partner with deep knowledge and experience in data management strategies. To learn more about how we can help you transition to NoOps, contact Enquizit today.