

IT INFRASTRUCTURE: A STRATEGIC CHOICE

What would happen if you put Max Verstappen in his Red Bull F1 racing car and you give Lewis Hamilton a scooter. Who would do the fastest lap on the new racing track in Zandvoort? Of course, you already know the answer to this question. Max will be much faster, even when Lewis uses a motorized scooter. And what would happen if you make them switch vehicles: Lewis uses his Mercedes and Max gets the scooter. Of course, the tables will be turned. Looking at this situation, who would dare to suggest that the material used is not important? A strategic choice for the right material is important if you want to achieve your goals: winning races and becoming world champion. F1 teams invest a lot of time and money to achieve these goals.

The same goes for IT infrastructure.

IT infrastructure has only one goal: Facilitate business processes and -applications. With that in mind it is still very important that you think about the platforms that you use within your IT infrastructure. The platforms you choose and the requirements they must adhere to, should follow the demands that come from your business processes. Those demands and requirements deal with flexibility for changes, stability of the business service, availability of the data, scalability of business process, the amount of transactions to be processed and protection against hackers and data-breaches.

The demands and requirements can differ substantially between business processes and/or applications. When you experiment with an exciting new application, the flexibility of the platform and the speed with which new versions of the application can be delivered are more important than the continuity and stability of the platform, the availability of the application and the safety of the data. But when you take business critical processes and -applications in mind, the latter will be more important.

Often these applications follow a lifecycle where the importance of the applications for the business processes becomes more and more critical. An application starts as a nice experiment based on a wild new idea, but, due to unexpected success, within months it can become part of a business-critical process. Nowadays you should be prepared for these kinds of situations. And your IT infrastructure should reflect that: How fast can you move your data or application to another platform that does supply the necessary continuity, stability, speed and safety?

At ICU we believe that you should choose the right platform for all your business applications. When you need lot of flexibility you might be better off in the public cloud. When you need the stability, safety and speed for a business-critical application with very large transaction volumes, you're probably better off in an IBM Z environment. But above all it should be possible to move your data or applications easily over the available platforms: today you're running in the public cloud, tomorrow on your IBM mainframe. Is your IT infrastructure ready for that?

Just like Max and his Red Bull team keep thinking about their racing material, thinking about IT infrastructure and making strategic choices for certain platforms remains important. Only

then, you can use your IT infrastructure the way it was designed for: Getting to the finish line as fast, secure and efficient as possible.

ICU IT Services is a niche-player and specializes in complex IT Infrastructures. We are consultant, integrator, managed service provider and offer our customers staffing solutions. Are you interested in implementing cloud solutions in your IT infrastructure, do you have doubts about the efficiency of your existing platforms or do you have questions regarding integration of your current IT infrastructure with new cloud environments (private or public), don't hesitate to contact us via info@icu-it.nl or call 0031 88 5234123.