

App Development for the Cloud Generation

Charles Babcock

Editor at Large, InformationWeek

Automate at all costs

Frameworks take
spotlight

- Spring Framework
- Ruby on Rails
- Zend Server
- Windows Azure



Platform as a service

Everyone gains when deployment platform is same as development platform

- Salesforce.com's Force.com
- Google App Engine
- Heroku, Engine Yard for Ruby

The Cloud likes open source code

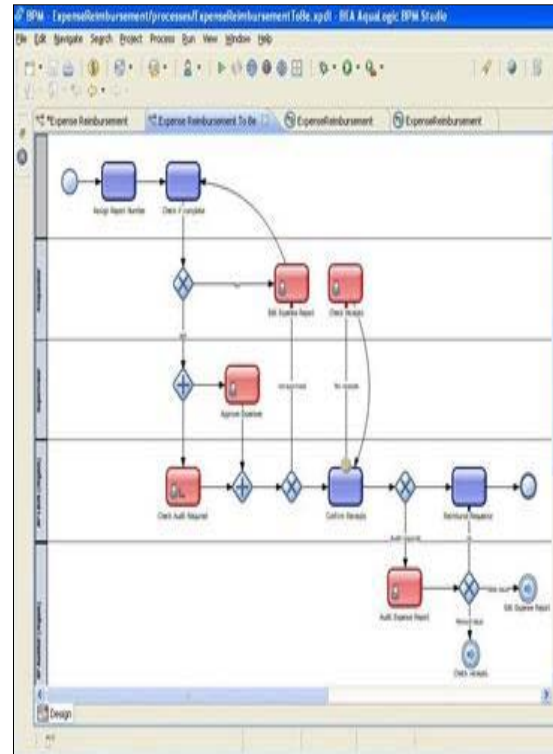
- Amazon's EC2 started out running Linux; Red Hat commands premium
- Web services are standardized and frequently built with open source
- Open source offers prospect of circumventing vendor lock-in

Open source levels the field

- OpenStack
- Simple API
- Nimbula
- Eucalyptus Systems
- PHP, Ruby, Javascript

Integration is easier in the cloud

- Talend
- Jitterbit
- SnapLogic



Targeting more than one cloud

- Novell's multi-hypervisor approach
- CA Technologies
- Credit Suisse spin-off DynamicOps
- CloudSwitch

Application Introspection

- Self describing application
- Dependencies discovered
- Change control applied to builds
- Develop once, run anywhere

Clouds run multiple hypervisors

- Azure will run Citrix XenServer, VMware ESX as well as Hyper-V
- Amazon will run VMware (against its better judgment)
- Rackspace, GoGrid, Terremark, Verizon, Savvis seek neutrality on hypervisors

What apps belong in the cloud?

- It's more about data & compliance
- Do you know where your data is stored?
- Is this app customer-facing?
- Is it mission critical? What's your recovery plan?

Movement toward hybrid cloud

- Ultimate goal is to let cloud absorb your data center spikes
- Workloads need to be managed the same way, whether on premises or off
- Barriers to hybrid operation will slowly fall