

EMC peels back a virtualization management layer

If cloud computing has a bugbear, it might be the fact that it relies on a host of disparate management systems controlling various aspects of the data centre infrastructure – storage, servers, virtual elements, physical boxes, etc. EMC Corp. says it now offers a solution that helps unify cloud-infrastructure management.

This week the software provider unveiled Ionix Data Center Insight, which brings together all of the configuration management databases (CMDBs) that a data centre might have. The program populates CMDBs with best-practices configuration items – combinations of hardware and software that together form a single configuration – and it allows administrators to see application and service dependencies across the whole system.

Designed to support third-party data sources, Ionix Data Center Insight reaches out to a variety of information repositories, integrating them, and adding a Web-services-based visual layer to the system so administrators can see the cross-domain dependencies, and search the infrastructure to better understand how the applications, servers, network elements and storage systems interconnect, EMC says.

The company is positioning Ionix Data Center Insight as a stepping stone towards unified configuration management systems, which help data centre operators corral CMDBs and apply security and assurance procedures across the entire IT stack.

One increasingly important – and complicating – aspect of the modern data centre is virtualization. While the technology spells improved server utilization rates, it also makes it more difficult for administrators to see just which applications are attached to which IT resources. As more and more organizations ramp up desktop-computer virtualization systems to simplify PC management, software that helps offset the increasing management load on the data centre could become important.

“Current tools fail to address these challenges as most are focused on single domain mapping,” says Jay Mastaj, EMC’s vice-president of Ionix, in a press statement. “To effectively manage the unified infrastructure of next-generation data centres, customers need a way to track cross-domain dependencies and dynamically link them together. EMC Ionix Data Center Insight is a significant new solution for the virtualized data centre – unifying and linking interdependencies end-to-end – from storage to server to network to applications.”

Ionix Data Center Insight is a part of EMC’s recently-released Ionix IT management suite – solutions for automating IT management across the storage, server, network, and virtualization aspects of data centre infrastructure. It also follows [news](#) of a virtualization-aware management feature in EMC’s Clariion CX4 storage systems – another item designed to help reduce data centre complexity as virtualization takes hold.