INFOBLOX

REDEFINING NETWORK SERVICES IN THE MULTI-CLOUD ERA

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Cloud infrastructure continues to provide IT operations with high degrees of agility and flexibility. The ability to treat mission-critical network services as an operational expense and scale resources as needed is attractive. It also taps hybrid multi-cloud network services for pricing leverage and discrete functionality tailored to workload needs. However, cloud networking architectures vary widely and create complexity in the form of swivel-chair and prescriptive management.

DDI services, a network foundation that includes Domain Name System (DNS), Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP) and IP address management (IPAM), can address these challenges. However, these services have historically been deployed individually by public cloud providers and require operational control that is pinned to each deployment. Consequently, a consolidated approach to DDI services across both on-premises and a wide range of cloud service providers can deliver significant value to enterprises. The potential benefits include simplified management, improved visibility, higher levels of network availability and resilience, enhanced security, and faster application deployment.

Moor Insights & Strategy believes that Infoblox is on a unique path to redefine critical universal network services such as DNS, DHCP, and IP address management in the hybrid, multi-cloud era with its new Infoblox Universal DDI Product Suite. This effort aims to break down the silos that exist between network, cloud, and security operations teams by providing improved visibility, simplified operational management, and higher levels of resiliency realized through three new service offerings: Infoblox Universal DDI Management, Infoblox Universal Asset Insights, and NIOS-X as a Service.

A UNIVERSAL APPROACH TO DDI DEPLOYMENT AND MANAGEMENT

Infoblox's Universal DDI Product Suite represents a leap forward in tackling the challenges that have existed since the birth of the cloud and the emergence of multi-cloud deployments in a majority of IT operational environments. It encompasses three new service offerings—Universal DDI Management, Universal Asset Insights, and NIOS-X as a Service.

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Infoblox claims that its first new service, ***Universal DDI Management***, is the only fully integrated and vendor-inclusive hybrid, multi-cloud orchestration delivery and management solution for critical network services that include IP address allocation. It integrates with tools like Ansible and Terraform to streamline cross-cloud automation, simplifying the provisioning of critical network services and applications across public clouds and on-premises environments. The subject of provisioning is significant, given organizations have historically deployed individual DNS services manually for each public cloud provider, creating complexity given the existence of separate services for both cloud and on-premises applications. Manual processes also introduce the risk of misconfigurations that lead to costly network outages. Through the introduction of a more automated methodology across on-premises deployments and cloud service providers, Infoblox is poised to help organizations employ a more agile and simplified management of network infrastructure.

Infoblox ***Universal Asset Insights*** is the second new service that delivers an infrastructure-wide central repository of asset and connectivity discovery. It extends DNS and DHCP to IPAM and, in doing so, has the potential to dramatically improve network visibility, operational efficiency, and contextual awareness. Nearly every organization struggles with managing orphaned applications that result from employee attrition and shifting operational needs. Orphaned workloads tend to increase operational costs and, even worse, create security blind spots. Bad actors often take advantage of poor defender visibility to find access weaknesses and move laterally through networks with the intention of inflicting denial of service for ransomware gains. Subsequently, Universal Asset Insights has the potential to address these challenges through the automatic identification of unused IP addresses and zombie workloads, resulting in lower operation expense and bolstered security posture.

Infoblox's third new service, ***NIOS-X as a Service***, delivers an infrastructure-free deployment model for critical network services that include DNS and DHCP. Network and cloud operations teams can easily streamline multi-cloud services into one unified solution that ensures a consistent experience across cloud and on-premises environments. Organizations can also boost the efficiency and reliability of these services using public cloud resilience across multiple availability zones and regions. Finally, to provide exceptional operational flexibility, Infoblox has made the service's provisioning speed lightning fast—claiming a time-to-deployment of minutes versus hours or days.

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MI&S believes Infoblox's universal approach to DDI deployment and management is a potential game changer. It consolidates operational management of DDI services across a wide swath of public cloud providers and legacy on-premises deployments, such as Microsoft DNS, improves network and asset visibility, and orchestrates service management cross-domain. Furthermore, the Infoblox Portal allows customers to manage all these services through a single management console, eliminating swivel-chair management headaches that often lead to misconfigurations, network downtime, and security risks.

Improving Healthcare Outcomes with Infoblox

UnityPoint Health provides a network of primary, urgent, emergency, and virtual care to communities throughout Iowa, Illinois, and Wisconsin. The healthcare system recognizes the importance of the newfound flexibility offered by Infoblox's Universal DDI Management suite, enabling centralized management of DHCP services across their twenty hospitals and improved failover mechanisms to address potential natural disasters. Additionally, this model grants UnityPoint the opportunity to maintain local DNS management on-premises while leveraging public cloud services for additional resiliency. Ultimately, these IT operational efficiencies lead to facilitating better UnityPoint patient outcomes.

Call to Action

Public cloud services continue to serve IT and OT environments with high degrees of efficiency and scale, but heterogeneous networking architectures create complexity that leads to cumbersome management. What is needed is a consolidated approach to DDI services across clouds and on-premises deployments that orchestrates and automates functionality to simplify management, improve visibility, bolster security, and improve operational efficiency.

MI&S believes that Infoblox could capitalize on its first-to-market opportunity to consolidate critical universal network service functionality that includes DNS, DHCP, and IP address management. Infoblox's Universal DDI Product Suite has the potential to significantly reduce operational costs and unite network, cloud, and security operations—radically simplifying operational models through the deployment of three new service offerings: Infoblox Universal DDI Management, Infoblox Universal Asset Insights, and NIOS-X as a Service.

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CONTRIBUTOR
Will Townsend, Vice President & Principal Analyst, Networking & Security Practices at Moor Insights & Strategy

PUBLISHER
Patrick Moorhead, CEO, Founder and Chief Analyst at Moor Insights & Strategy

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