

What Will 2015 Mean to Federal IT?

Perspectives from Cisco Systems Engineering

As 2015 gets underway it promises an explosion in cloud computing and the Internet of Everything (IoE) across most sectors. But what will the new year bring at the federal level? To find out, we spent time with one of the industry's leading experts in federal IT, Mike Younkers, Director of Systems Engineering for Cisco's U.S. Federal team. Mike's leadership involvement at Cisco includes core, advanced and emerging technologies. And what he sees on the horizon might surprise you.



In his recent appearance on CNBC's Mad Money with Jim Cramer, Cisco CEO John Chambers stated that he feels the [Internet of Everything \(IoE\)](#) will be the key technology driving our industry in 2015. How well do you feel that trend will translate at the federal level?

The IoE is already well understood by the U.S. Government. It has been connecting devices and sensors for many years. But the private sector is rapidly expanding its focus in this area and as a result is developing additional capabilities for security and analysis; such as big data technologies and techniques. These are new aspects of the IoE; ones that federal IT can leverage in 2015.

What is the key technology that will be driving federal IT in 2015?

I'll give you two: the first, as John mentioned, is the IoE – and the second is [open-hybrid cloud](#). Plus with [FITARA](#), CIOs for federal agencies could now have a significant role in programming, budgeting, management and governance of IT across departments. This will likely mean additional focus on the [Federal Data Center Consolidation Initiatives](#) (FDCCI) and [Cloud First](#) policy plus a continued focus on cloud services for federal agencies. Our customers will press hard to avoid being locked in to a single cloud service provider. They will demand services be located on-site as well as in the cloud. As a result, 2015 may well be the year of the open-hybrid cloud at the federal level.

Do you feel that all the pieces are in place for federal agencies to push forward with open-hybrid cloud and the IoE in 2015? If so, do you see any barriers to implementation that federal IT should watch out for?

For the most part, yes, all the pieces are in place. [FedRAMP](#) updates, along with the new changes to the [DoD Cloud Security Model](#), go a long way to addressing the security and compliance piece. The underlying technology is there. The biggest piece that is being addressed now is the orchestration of all this. For example, how do you provision, deploy, manage, and monitor open-hybrid cloud and/or the IoE based networks? Open Stack shows a lot of promise but many say it's not quite ready for use at a large scale. Though there are some global service providers who will disagree.

How can federal IT overcome these barriers? Can Cisco help?

Yes, we sure can. At Cisco our infrastructure has open APIs with well-defined interfaces. We are also contributing heavily to the Open Source community through projects like Open Day Light (ODL) and Open Stack. And we are providing capabilities like the [Intercloud Fabric](#) (ICF) to help customers realize their visions of a truly open-hybrid cloud.

What does Cisco offer that is unique and adds stronger value than the competition for federal IT in 2015?

I'll go back to Cisco's Intercloud Fabric. It is a critical component of any open hybrid cloud architecture. First, it is open so there is no cloud service provider lock-in and it removes the complexity of writing to each individual ISP's APIs. Secondly, it provides much needed security, per virtual machine and connection basis, between an on-premise datacenter and a public cloud; and even between virtual machines in a public cloud.



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Thanks for taking time to give us your perspective on the key drivers for federal IT in 2015. We'll be checking in throughout the year for more insight on the push for cloud computing and other issues facing our partners in the federal government.

Thanks for the opportunity. Until then, I invite your readers to keep up to date on Cisco's approach to federal IT by following my blog at <http://blogs.cisco.com/author/mikeyouunkers>. Also, check out the links below for more information on Cisco solutions for open-hybrid cloud and the IoE:

Cisco Open-hybrid Cloud <http://www.cisco.com/web/solutions/trends/cloud/private-cloud-hybrid-cloud-solutions.html>

Cisco Internet of Everything <http://internetofeverything.cisco.com/vas-public-sector-infographic/>



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