

A woman with long brown hair, wearing a blue lab coat with an HP logo on the chest, is gesturing with her hands while speaking. She is standing in front of server racks in a data center.

RETHINKING INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE AI ERA

Expert insights on modernizing compute
for enterprise

Enterprise infrastructure is undergoing a drastic shift. Virtualization costs are rising and operational complexity is increasing. Growing AI workloads place new demands on performance, efficiency, and scale. Many organizations struggle to meet these demands with rigid architectures, fragmented tools, and outdated operating models that increase risk and limit flexibility.

We invited industry expert, Ben Bender, Director of Platform Marketing at HPE, to share his insights about the ever-shifting landscape of enterprise compute infrastructure. In this brief Q&A, Bender discusses the role modernizing infrastructure plays in meeting today's IT challenges.

1. Why are so many organizations re-evaluating their infrastructure and virtualization strategies right now, and how did we arrive at this moment?

Virtualization is undergoing its most significant disruption in a decade. Forced bundles, hypervisor lock-in, tool sprawl, and brittle automation are at the root of this disruption, and they have driven unpredictable budget shocks. And it's all happening at a time when organizations need to innovate faster as their hybrid cloud operating models support AI initiatives. So, enterprises need to reduce cost, repatriate workloads, and reduce system noise from fragmented tools and siloed data. Together, these pressures drive a fundamental reset of IT infrastructure and operations.

2. How does a server refresh fit into the broader trends we're seeing in the virtualization space?

Virtualization has become one of the largest and least flexible cost centers in enterprise IT. Alternative hypervisors often come with similar lock-in or operational compromises. Organizations are under pressure to reduce spend immediately but don't want to risk destabilizing business-critical workloads or force through giant migrations. Enterprises need a path to reclaim control over their VM economics without compromising performance, reliability, or operational continuity. In short, a server refresh addresses these issues in a way that makes sense for a lot of companies.

3. What are the risks of staying with older virtualization tools and hardware as AI demands evolve?

Rising energy costs, data center space constraints, and unprecedented performance requirements for analytics and AI workloads are a few of the biggest drawbacks of traditional servers. There are also security risks to cobbling together old and new hardware. Unnecessarily complex operations across multiple interfaces introduce more opportunities for human error.

But mostly, older gear isn't up to the task of today's evolving IT landscape. It can't sustain modern consolidation ratios, and hyper-converged infrastructure (HCI) lock-in often restricts flexibility and efficiency. Organizations need a modular, future-ready compute strategy that enhances performance while lowering operational cost, which is where a refresh can really help.



4. How does a compute refresh prepare organizations for emerging AI workloads?

As AI technologies rapidly evolve, organizations must adapt their IT infrastructure to support increasingly complex and demanding workloads. A compute refresh plays a critical role in preparing organizations for the challenges and opportunities presented by emerging AI workloads.

Benefits of an infrastructure refresh include:

- Optimized performance and efficiency
- Enhanced memory and storage capabilities
- Robust next-level security design
- Increased energy and cost savings

By upgrading server infrastructure, organizations can harness the full potential of AI technologies, achieve greater scalability, security, and efficiency, and lay a solid foundation for success in the era of AI-driven digital transformation.

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