

# TechTalk

## We are proud to announce that Galaxy is now a VMware 'Managed Service Provider' for offering Hybrid Cloud Services!

Galaxy offers solutions for hybrid cloud that helps customers to enable greater operational efficiency, resiliency and scalability throughout the entire cloud infrastructure. Get in touch with our experts by emailing us at [marketing@goapl.com](mailto:marketing@goapl.com)



## Upcoming Webinar: Enabling the Digital Workspace

VMware Workspace ONE is an intelligence-driven digital workspace platform to simply and securely deliver and manage any app on any device. Workspace ONE integrates access control, application management and multi-platform endpoint management into a single platform and is available as a cloud service or on-premises deployment.

Join the webinar to find out how you can quickly enable your digital workforce and get your most pressing questions answered through Q&A.

Register Now: <https://bit.ly/3hM0rdT>



**Anoop Pai Dhungat**  
Chairman & MD

Dear Readers,

With most major economies (the surprise exception being China) faced with GDP contractions between 9% to 24%, the business outlook surely must be grim. However, the stock markets around the world are suggesting otherwise. Could this be that the money provided for relief to various companies and individuals is actually being funnelled into the stock markets. Or is that that with very limited avenues of meeting ones expenses, a large number of people have entered with their personal investments? Both these scenarios are equally likely and dangerous as the bubble will have to burst sooner or later.

As the world is opening up, the number of cases are bound to increase. It is the management and control of such cases that will determine whether a second and third wave will hit. Of course in India, we are still struggling to contain the first wave with the number of infections in almost all states rising on a daily basis. As the lockdown restrictions are eased, I am seeing that people are throwing caution to the wind and ignoring even basic things like wearing masks, hand hygiene and avoidable social distancing. I can understand 'lockdown fatigue', but such indiscretions can completely set us back by the 5 months that we were in lockdown.

Business in certain sectors is picking up but it seems like it will take some time before we reach the activity levels that we had before the lockdown. For those of you who have still not gone completely digital, this is the best time to do so. Please reach out to us and our experts will guide you with the ideal roadmap for this journey.



## Future Is Now

### An AI Just Confirmed the Existence of 50 Planets by Digging Through NASA Data

The search for other planets just got a huge upgrade. A machine learning algorithm just confirmed the existence of 50 new planets.

The team behind the algorithm, from Warwick University, fed it huge datasets originating from NASA's now-retired Kepler mission and the Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS), a space telescope that launched in 2018.

The scientists are hoping their research could pave the way for future planet validation techniques. Current techniques for spotting and confirming the existence of other planets are easily swayed by noise, interference of an object in the background, or even errors in the camera.

The team trained their algorithm by teaching it the difference between confirmed planets and false positives. They then unleashed it on a separate dataset that has yet to be validated for planetary candidates.

The algorithm was able to confirm 50 new planets — a first in the history of astronomy, according to the team. "The algorithm we have developed lets us take fifty candidates across the threshold for planet validation, upgrading them to real planets," David Armstrong, from the University of Warwick department of physics, and lead author of the paper published in the journal

Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society last week, said in a statement.

The planets come in a variety of sizes. Some are as large as Neptune, while others are even smaller than Earth.

"Rather than saying which candidates are more likely to be planets, we can now say what the precise statistical likelihood is," Armstrong explained. "Where there is less than a 1 percent chance of a candidate being a false positive, it is considered a validated planet."

It's not only extremely effective, the algorithm works very fast entirely on its own. "We still have to spend time training the algorithm, but once that is done it becomes much easier to apply it to future candidates," Armstrong added.

"We hope to apply this technique to large samples of candidates from current and future missions like TESS and PLATO (PLANetary Transits and Oscillations of stars, a space telescope set to launch in 2026]."



<https://bit.ly/2QNSxop>



## Technology Focus

### It's Time to Prepare for a Multi-Cloud Future

Clouds are on the horizon. No, not just outside your window, but in every corner of your business. Your business likely needs more than one cloud-based service provider. So in a multi-cloud world, where do you turn for your 30,000-foot view?

It's the next chapter in a story that we've seen rapidly unfolding over the past few years, and for good reason.

Cloud solutions offer clear advantages when it comes to cost, scalability and reliability. For small- and medium-sized enterprises, it's meant hassle-free access to the newest and best cloud-based tools or freeing up precious time and IT resources previously spent on maintaining a room full of servers.

And increasingly, businesses aren't content to settle down with just one cloud-based service provider. In a TechRepublic survey from this past June, two-thirds of respondents said their companies currently use or plan to use services from multiple cloud-based providers,

with Amazon Web Services (AWS) and Microsoft Azure leading the way as the most popular choices. Google Cloud and Oracle Cloud were in the middle of the pack, with IBM Cloud, Alibaba Cloud, Tencent Cloud and Fujitsu Cloud Services capturing smaller portions of the market. Growth, and Competition, in the Forecast

These forces are reshaping the playing field: Research firm Gartner predicts “exponential” growth in the worldwide public-cloud services market, which they expected would surge by 17.5 percent in 2019 to a size of \$214 billion and reach \$332 billion in just three years. Growth has largely been driven by cloud infrastructure services, Gartner also reported, and more than a third of companies see cloud investments as a top-three investment priority.

But multi-cloud goes far beyond infrastructure. It also encompasses the many cloud-based tools an organization needs to do business, meaning if your company already uses various cloud-based services for accounting, CRM, marketing automation, analytics, etc., then congratulations! You’re already playing in the multi-cloud sandbox

This landscape is sparking fierce competition, with industry leader AWS facing sharper challenges in the marketplace. Take, for example, Microsoft’s recent launch of Azure Synapse Analytics, a giant leap forward from its Azure SQL Data Warehouse that has already sparked excitement for its ability to unify data warehousing with big-data analytics, and because of its integrated-partner ecosystem (including data warehouses).

And that’s not the only win for Microsoft’s Azure cloud lately. In October, the software giant snagged a massive and highly competitive \$10 billion defense contract over AWS. Another recent shocker came from Salesforce, which announced in November that it would be using Microsoft Azure to power its marketing cloud, even as it has existing deals with Google Cloud and AWS, making it a prime example of enterprise multi-cloud strategy.

### Five Advantages of a Multi-Cloud Approach

As the Salesforce case in particular demonstrates, the showdown between cloud providers is just getting started, and many enterprises are beginning to consider when and how -- not whether -- they’ll shift to a multi-cloud strategy. Here are just a few reasons to seriously consider it:

- Using multiple cloud-based tools and providers allows you to utilize the best strengths and capabilities of each one.
- A variety of partners can combine to cater to your unique needs and scale with your business as it grows.
- While the cost of using multiple providers is certainly something to consider, it can actually prove to be a cost-effective way to piece together subscriptions in a way that prioritizes what matters to you most.

- Spreading out among vendors avoids the trap of becoming locked into any single provider.
- Finally, though the complexity associated with a multi-cloud approach can be challenging for security, it can also offer greater protection against DDoS attacks.

### What’s the Bottom Line for SMEs?

To a small - or medium-sized business with Salesforce ambitions on a shoestring budget, this can all seem (rightly) daunting. Concerns about the complexities involved remains one of the most frequently cited reasons that companies hesitate to jump into a multi-cloud approach. This concern is especially relevant to startups with small engineering teams, who are mostly concerned about building out the core product and not tending to the company’s own internal IT needs. For companies in this position, a step into the multi-cloud future should begin with a close scrutiny of any cloud vendor, combined with an honest assessment of the company’s needs and capabilities, both now and over time. Are the solutions user-friendly? Will they scale as the company grows? Can the solutions help the company create a single source of truth with minimal maintenance? What’s the cost, in terms of both time and money, of not adopting a multi-cloud approach? These are just a few of the key questions that SME leaders should ask at the outset.

### Finding a Silver Lining

So how can a business prepare for this reality amid a fast-changing IT landscape? It helps to look for a silver lining. Yes, a multi-cloud strategy can present complications, but best-in-breed tools for various parts of the business are increasingly cloud-based, and this trend will only accelerate. Enterprises may well find the significant benefits to be worth the headache.

But even as things change, the ultimate goal for organizations of any size remains accessing better insights in the moments when they matter most. As providers duke it out for dominance and market share, smart businesses will invest now in providers that seamlessly integrate with various cloud providers and make it easy to view data across the enterprise, no matter where it lives. It’s the difference between being caught in a fog and finding that all-important single source of truth -- that view from above the clouds.



<https://bit.ly/35gdAIY>

## IBM QRadar

Today's networks are more complex than ever before and protecting them from increasingly malicious and sophisticated attackers is a never-ending task. Organizations seeking to protect their customers' identities, safeguard their intellectual property and avoid business disruption need to proactively monitor their environment so that they can rapidly detect threats and accurately respond before attackers are able to cause material damage.

### Identify events that matter most

IBM QRadar Security Information and Event Management (SIEM) helps security teams accurately detect and prioritize threats across the enterprise, and it provides intelligent insights that enable teams to respond quickly to reduce the impact of incidents. By consolidating log events and network flow data from thousands of devices, endpoints and applications distributed throughout your network, QRadar correlates all this different information and aggregates related events into single alerts to accelerate incident analysis and remediation. QRadar SIEM is available on premises and in a cloud environment.

IBM QRadar Security Information and Event Management (SIEM) is designed to provide security teams with centralized visibility into enterprise-wide security data and actionable insights into the highest priority threats.

As data is ingested, QRadar applies real-time, automated security intelligence to quickly and accurately detect and prioritize threats. Actionable alerts provide greater context into potential incidents, enabling security analysts to swiftly respond to limit the attackers' impact. Unlike other solutions, only QRadar is purpose-built to address security use cases and intentionally designed to easily scale with limited customization effort required.

### Gain comprehensive, centralized visibility

Enterprise networks can span across traditional on-premises IT, cloud-based and operational technology (OT) environments, all of which require some level of oversight to effectively protect assets, accurately detect threats and maintain compliance. Before security teams can start analyzing data to detect and manage threats, they must first have centralized visibility into disparate security data. QRadar enables organizations to gain centralized, comprehensive visibility into siloed environments by collecting, parsing and normalizing both log and flow data.

### Highlights

- Gain comprehensive visibility into security data from a single console
- Reduce thousands of events into a manageable list of prioritized offenses
- Analyze network, endpoint, asset and user data to quickly detect threats
- Simplify compliance with automated data ingestion, correlation and reports
- Integrate threat intelligence from IBM® and third parties using STIX/TAXII
- Achieve a quick time-to-value with over 450 default setting integrations
- Deploy a scalable platform on-premises, in the cloud or as a hybrid model

### Features

QRadar SIEM intelligently correlates and analyzes a variety of information, including the following activities:

**Security events:** From firewalls, virtual private networks, intrusion detection systems, intrusion prevention systems, databases and more

**Network events:** From switches, routers, servers, hosts and more

**Network activity context:** Layer 7 application context from network and application traffic

**Cloud activity:** From SaaS and Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS) environments, such as Office365, Salesforce.com, Amazon Web Services (AWS), Azure and Google Cloud

**User and asset context:** Contextual data from identity and access management products and vulnerability scanners

**Endpoint events:** From the Windows event log, Sysmon, EDR solutions and more

**Application logs:** From enterprise resource planning (ERP) solutions, application databases, SaaS applications and more

**Threat intelligence:** From sources such as IBM X-Force®  
QRadar includes hundreds of pre-built security use cases, anomaly detection algorithms, rules and real-time correlation policies to detect known and unknown threats. As threats are discovered, the solution aggregates related security events into single, prioritized alerts known as "offenses." Offenses are automatically prioritized based on both the severity of the threat and the criticality of the assets involved.

**To talk to our experts or for a free consultation, please write to us at [marketing@goapl.com](mailto:marketing@goapl.com)**



## Ransomware attacks in India double in June quarter

Ransomware attacks in India increased 200% quarter-on-quarter in April-June with 4 lakh new cases detected during the period, according to cybersecurity firm Seqrite's quarterly threat report. Maze ransomware was the top threat for enterprises, while activities of other ransomware families such as Ryuk, Netwalker, RagnarLocker, PonyFinal and Tycoon also reportedly increased in the period.

Seqrite attributes the increase in attacks to absence of robust cybersecurity infrastructure due to shift to remote working. The researchers at Seqrite also observed a shift in the behaviour of ransomware operators, where they not only encrypt company systems and ask them for ransom but also steal sensitive information including IPs which they threaten to publish or sell online for additional income.

This tactic is no longer limited to Maze and several threat actors behind various other ransomware families

are now doing it. Seqrite warns, BFSI, Manufacturing, IT/ITES and Government departments are high return targets for threat actors for the sensitive data they hold.

More than 100 enterprises including Cognizant and Xerox have been attacked by Maze ransomware operators since the covid-19 outbreak.

"Ransomware attacks have always been a concern for enterprises. But what makes them more dangerous is their innovative and evolving nature. While previously, threat actors used to block sensitive data and ask for a ransom in return, now they have evolved and become much smarter than ever," Sanjay Katkar, Joint Managing Director and CTO – Quick Heal Technologies said in a statement.

In terms of overall malware attacks, Seqrite detected 22 million Windows malware in June quarter. Out of these, 9.59 million attacks were in June alone, up from 7.51 million in May.

Seqrite attributes the increase in attacks in June to the opening up of operations in manufacturing, BFSI, education and healthcare sector.



<https://bit.ly/31Mwh4A>

**Don't let your organization be vulnerable! Galaxy offers various cybersecurity solutions to keep your company safe, to know more or to talk to our experts email us at [marketing@goapl.com](mailto:marketing@goapl.com)**

## 'Make in India' AI-based platform enabling online exams with ease

As lakhs of students set to appear for the top competitive exams like NEET and JEE next month amid social distancing norms, online digital assessment platform HireMee on Wednesday said its 'make in India artificial intelligence (AI)-driven platform is enabling online examination in a cost-effective manner in the country.

According to the company, a student can take the online test on a laptop, tablet or even on an inexpensive smartphone.

"HireMee's AI-enabled remote testing platform stems out proxy test takers effectively and works reliably even on inconsistent internet in rural areas and operates optimally even with low bandwidth," Chocko Valliappa, Founder of HireMee, said in a statement.

"Creating test papers is a breeze for faculty in addition to giving them ample time to focus on e-learning to replace classroom teaching," he added.

The AI-ML algorithm used by HireMee for ProEx enables digital face recognition that can quickly detect any form of external help taken by test takers.

Multiple photo grabs of test takers, taken every few seconds, are stitched to create a time lapse video of every examinee, which is shared with the Controller of Examinations for proctoring as a report. The technology identifies test takers seeking external help or looking away from the test-screen and flags them.

The HireMee 'ProEx' platform was recently used by the BNM Institute of Technology, Bengaluru and the Deth

Bhagat University in Patiala, where half a dozen faculty members were able to easily conduct over 1,00,000 online examinations in couple of days.

"We were able to conduct the 2020 internal examinations digitally and smoothly with zero glitches even in the remotest parts of the country. We are now planning to conduct our computer lab examinations on this easy-to-use platform," said Dr Krishnamurthy GN, Principal of BNMIT.

The platform's additional features such as auto-selection and randomisation of questions, navigation control, and window and image proctoring are built in to ensure a seamless examination process, the company said. Till date, HireMee platform has completed nearly a million remote online tests since its launch 18 months ago.

During the pandemic, the number of colleges and Universities signing up for ProEx solution has grown to 60. "At least two dozen institutions are either in the midst of administering their online examination or scheduled to do so, using the ProEx platform," the company said.



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## Cloud without the Chaos

VMware Cloud Foundation on Dell EMC VxRail

**Event Date: Tuesday, 15th September 2020**  
**Time: 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM**


**Speakers:**



**Sushim Mukherjee**  
SPS Lead - Enterprise BFSI  
Dell Technologies



**Rahul Navghare**  
Sr. Manager, Systems Engineering  
VMware India



**Purvesh Dharamshi**  
Sr. Director Cloud Practice  
Galaxy Office  
Automation Pvt Ltd

## Cloud without the Chaos

Come join us for this exclusive event to learn how cloud foundation on VxRail, delivers the simplest path to hybrid cloud with consistent operations and infrastructure.

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