the cumulus

a round-up of cloud updates in Asia Pacific

May 2017 Edition

A U S T R A L I A

Deloitte Buys Sydney-based AWS Specialist Strut Digital

It hopes to use the acquisition to fill a DevOps gap in its cloud consultancy service.

Impact Analysis: Deloitte wants to provide clients with a one-stop, end-to-end cloud technology service.

TechnologyOne First Local Company to Receive IRAP Certification

TechnologyOne says it has received a Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) certification for its enterprise solution from the govt's Information Security Registered Assessors (IRAP) program developed by the Australian Signals Directorate (ASD).

Productivity Commission Releases Data Availability and Use Report

The report outlines where data may have the greatest impact and how the govt should interact with the public to make the most efficient use of big data.

- An absence of trust between data custodians and users is a roadblock. The report calls for a new Data Sharing and Release Act, including a Comprehensive Right for Consumers.
- It also calls for establishing an Office of National Data Custodian.
- An opt-out right for consumers has been declared too difficult to implement.

Impact Analysis: Data protections and usage frameworks in Australia need to be reformed and updated in the digital age. The new Act should be in place by the end of 2018.

Adelaide IoT Firm Xped Buys AI Start-up Jemsoft

Xped has paid AUD900,000 (USD670,000) for the acquisition. Jemsoft has developed Monocular API, a computer vision machine-learning platform.

Telstra Launches New Business Unit, IoT Lab

The operator's newly formed Telstra Labs consolidates its innovation and technology development capabilities.

- Its Melbourne headquarters will be home to a new open IoT lab and incubator to run solutions off Cat-M1 and NB-IoT radio networks.

Curtin University to Deploy Hitachi IoT Solution

The Perth-based university will create a smart campus with sensor and analytics technology from Hitachi over the coming 12 to 18 months. Facial recognition will be used in monitoring on-campus safety.

C H I N A

Tencent Cloud Inaugurates Five Overseas Data Centres

The Internet company's cloud services arm has launched five new data centres in Frankfurt, Mumbai, Seoul, Moscow and Silicon Valley.

- The new data centres will complement the company's existing footprint in Singapore, Toronto and Hong Kong and primarily cater to cross-border customers, ie: Chinese companies expanding overseas and international companies branching into China.
- In addition to its existing client portfolio in online games, live streaming, online finance and video, Tencent plans to expand its cloud services to traditional sectors including manufacturing and govt.

MIIT Releases Energy Efficiency Targets for ICT

The Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) has released its Guidelines on Energy Efficiency for the ICT sector in the 13th FYP. It aims to release data centre PUE to 1.4 or lower by 2020 and reduce telcos' energy consumption by 10% from 2015 levels.

- The MIIT had achieved its 12th FYP targets of reducing data centre PUE by 1.5 and telcos' energy consumption to 31.5kg of coal per CNY1m (USD147,300) in 2015.

China Telecom, Alibaba Sign Comprehensive Partnership Agreement

Areas of cooperation include e-commerce, network and security, marketing, cloud computing, payments, rural channels, corporate procurement and the IoT.

- China Telecom's NB-IoT network, which utilises its LTE base stations and 800MHz spectrum, is the first large-scale commercial network of its kind in China.

Xiaomi to Build Open AI Platform

The platform will enable its Mi TV products to offer users a better voice control experience. Consumers are able to use voice commands to control third-party household devices connected to the same Wi-Fi network.

H O N G   K O N G

NTT First to Gain LEED Certification in Hong Kong

NTT's Financial Data Centre Tower 2 (FDC2) has become the first service provider's data centre in Hong Kong to gain the LEED-CS 2009 Platinum level certification.

- LEED is the 'Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design' of the US Green Building Council.
- Using a combination of innovative design and technologies, such as the Cooling Wall1 and Cooling Battery2, with the ultra-high density design3, FDC2 has increased its cooling energy efficiency by over 20% and achieved a market-leading annualized PUE (Power Use Effectiveness) of below 1.5 at full-load.
- On an annual basis, FDC2 successfully minimizes energy consumption to around 60%, following the ASHRAE (American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers) Standards, resulting in 357,000 tons of CO_2 emission reduction. Joint venture data centre exchange.

CITIC Gains ISO IaaS Certification

CITIC Telecom International has become the first Infrastructure-as-a-Service (IaaS) provider to obtain the "ISO 27017 Code of Practice for Information Security Controls for Cloud Services" certification in Hong Kong.

- ISO 27017 is the internationally recognized information technology—security techniques—code of practice for information security controls, applicable to the provision and use of cloud services.

Cloud-based Tools in Schneider's Next-Gen Platform

Schneider Electric has launched the next generation of its EcoStruxure IoT architecture and platform in Hong Kong.

- The open and interoperable system architecture and platform delivers IoT-enabled solutions for building, grid energy and data centre customers, supporting applications such as energy management and automation.
- The platform provides cloud-based tools to facilitate the automation of maintenance operations and monitor energy consumption. It combines connectivity with data analytics to create actionable insights into performance and optimization.

HKCS Publishes CIO Agenda Survey 2017

Cloud implementation has become one of the top 10 items on the CIO agenda to drive business innovation, but cloud security remains a key concern, according to the results of a joint study by Hong Kong Computer Society (HKCS) CIO Board and PolyU's Institute of Advanced Executive Education Digital Leadership Programme.

- The *Hong Kong CIO Agenda 2017* study was conducted on the 25 members of HKCS CIO Board, which represents the public sector, utilities, transport and logistics, manufacturing and engineering, as well as financial services.

In-house Lawyers Top Influencers in Cloud Decisions

An IDC study on Asia-Pacific legal, risk and compliance professionals found that 18.9% of these professionals in Hong Kong viewed cloud applications and platforms as being more trustworthy than on-premise solutions because of better security and other reasons.

- The study also found that 32.1% saw no difference between the two, while 49.1% took a more conventional perception and still placed more trust on-premise IT solutions.
- *Advising to innovate -- views from the Asia Pacific legal, risk and compliance communities* was commissioned by Microsoft and global law firm Linklaters, and was conducted by IDC on 479 companies with over 500 staff in the region, with 53 of the respondent companies from Hong Kong.
- Crucially, the study also found that the legal, risk and compliance professionals have already wielded considerable influence on enterprises' cloud decisions, with in-house lawyers ranked as the top influencers when it comes to giving the greenlight to cloud deployments. This is followed by regulators and external lawyers in Hong Kong.

> **Impact Analysis**: The survey was carried out by a law firm, Linklaters, and may be more attuned to the role of lawyers.

Mega-i Tops Cloudscene's Leaderboard

SUNeVision's MEGA-i data centre has been ranked the top facility in Hong Kong in Cloudscene's Q1 2017 Leaderboard.

- The Leaderboard ranks the data centre, with 193 service providers listed, as the number one among the 84 colocation data centres operating in Hong Kong, and the seventh largest data centre globally.

I N D I A

New Cloud Service Offerings to Be Empaneled

The Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) has invited applicants to the empanelment of cloud service offerings by cloud service providers (CSPs) under the GI Cloud (MeghRaj). Both new CSPs and existing empaneled providers were invited to offer cloud services.

- Applications closed May 31.

Oracle Cloud Validated for India Stack

Oracle validated its Cloud Platform to develop applications using India Stack services, which allow govt, businesses and developers in India to build a unique digital infrastructure. Oracle Cloud can be used to create and test new applications that rely on India Stack APIs including Aadhaar Authentication.

I N D O N E S I A

Telkomsel and Cisco Launch Seamless Business Communication Tool

Telkomsel, together with Cisco, launched Telkomsel Unified Collaboration, an application that combines functions such as call, voice and video conference, messaging and collaboration (file, desktop and virtual whiteboard).

- The service can be used across 2G, 3G, 4G and Wi-Fi networks and utilises a full cloud architecture.

JAPAN

Fujitsu and 1Qbit Partner on AI Cloud Service

The companies will work together in both local and global markets to develop applications to solve industry problems using artificial intelligence (AI) developed for use with quantum computers.

DENSO and Toshiba to Collaborate on IoT, Autonomous Cars

The partnership will combine DENSO's high level of technology and manufacturing capability with Toshiba's image recognition, IoT, AI, and software development technologies to compete in the rapidly growing and competitive market of autonomous cars.

MALAYSIA

Alibaba Cloud to Build Malaysia Data Centre

Alibaba Cloud, the cloud computing arm of the Alibaba Group, has been awarded the MSC certification, and aims to build a data centre in Malaysia, with Cyberjaya being one of the locations considered.

- This will add to Alibaba Cloud's 14 global data centres worldwide.

Impact Analysis: Through Alibaba's partnership with the govt on the DFTZ, Alibaba Cloud has an existing pool of customers to offer their services to, i.e. SMEs that will participate in the DTFZ. This strategic move enables Alibaba Cloud to have SMEs to be "built on the cloud" by design, and influence a next generation of companies to be cloud-ready.

Doctor2U Uses Cloud to Provide Telemedicine Services

Doctor2U, an app by ALI Health – a subsidiary under BP Healthcare Group, is powered by Microsoft Azure to bring house call services to its users within 60 minutes of the request.

- It uses Microsoft's bot framework for its Live Chat feature, allowing users to chat with doctors, pharmacists and nutritionists for free.
- It currently has 1,000 doctors from govt and private sectors, and has an estimate of 17,000 active users monthly.
- It costs MYR200 (USD46.10) to MYR380 (USD87.60) for a house call, which includes doctor's consultation, basic medication, doctor's transportation, referral letter and medical certificate.

First LoRa Network Rolled Out in Klang Valley

Atilize Digital, together with edotco Group, completed the rollout of 25 LoRa gateways to serve business needs, enabling connected things to send data to the cloud for processing and gain insight from the data sent.

- Eight environmental sensors have been installed in Cyberjaya to collect real-time data on temperature, humidity and air quality. With the data, decisions can be made quickly when haze occurs, preventing individuals with medical conditions like asthma from suffering an attack.

NEW ZEALAND

Retailer James Pascoe Switches to Rimini Street

It will provide support for James Pascoe's SAP Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) applications while helping the retailer optimize its maintenance spend.

PwC, MYOB Report on Firms' Digitalization Trends

According to PwC's 2017 Digital IQ Survey only 6% of New Zealand companies are thinking about better customer experiences. 76% are focused on growing revenues.

- In the *MYOB Future of Business Report: The Age of Change*, 44% of respondents believed their industry will be profoundly affected by technology in the next ten years.

Impact Analysis: In pursuing digital transformation strategies New Zealand companies must ensure they get their priorities right. Companies should prepare for technology-driven change to come quickly and be able to plan for it.

Focus Technology Group Merges with CGNZ

This follows the Southland IT service provider's purchase of Computer Group NZ (CGNZ)'s Southland assets.

Solnet Becomes Govt Approved Supplier

Digital transformation consultancy Solnet has been appointed to the govt's Web Services Panel.

Spark to Provide Cloud Services to Christchurch Justice and Emergency Services Precinct

It will provide cloud and wireless services to the NZD300m (USD208m) Precinct.

- Spark has also finished migrating its Xtra email service from the Yahoo platform to SMX. 800,000 accounts, containing 1.4 billion messages, were migrated to the new cloud email platform.

Productivity Commission Will Look at Transition to Low Carbon Economy

The research will shape how New Zealand manages its domestic response to climate change. The commission is scheduled to report back by Jun 30.

Impact Analysis: New Zealand has set for itself ambitious targets when it signed the 2030 Paris Agreement on climate change. Data centre operations may be affected by the new emission laws.

SINGAPORE

Singapore Invests in AI and Deeper Learning Capacities

The National Research Foundation (NRF) will invest up to SGD150m (USD108m) over five years in AI.SG, a new national programme that seeks to boost Singapore's capabilities in AI.

- AI.SG has three objectives: 1) to harness AI to address critical challenges affecting society and the industry, such as to improve traffic flow during peak hours and manage the ageing population; 2) to "catch the next wave of scientific innovation" such as deeper-learning; and 3) to broaden the adoption and use of AI and machine-learning in the industry.
- One goal is to deliver 100 "meaningful AI projects and proofs-of-concept to solve real-world problems quickly for end-users"—starting with ideas for the sectors of finance, healthcare and city management.
- AI.SG is a govt-wide partnership comprising the NRF; Smart Nation and Digital Government Office; Economic Development Board; IMDA; SGInnovate; and the Integrated Health Information Systems. It will bring together Singapore-based research institutions, start-ups and firms with AI solutions.

College Uses AI for Campus Cybersecurity

United World College of Southeast Asia (UWCSEA) has deployed AI technology in its two campuses in Singapore to protect its cybersecurity network.

- The campuses are using AI to spot sophisticated cyber threats that could infiltrate UWCSEA's network via a student's phone, laptop or IoT device. This is particularly necessary as students can use their own devices and parents can use the campus network to access personal devices.

Smart Health TeleRehab to be Rolled Out

The Integrated Health Information Systems (IHiS) and T-Rehab—a start-up by the National University of Singapore (NUS)—are conducting a pilot of Smart Health TeleRehab across Singapore.

- Smart Health TeleRehab allows patients to undergo their rehabilitation exercises wherever and whenever convenient to them. It is suitable for patients recovering from conditions including stroke, fractures, lower limb joint replacements or amputations, deconditioning and musculoskeletal conditions.
- According to IHiS, Smart Health TeleRehab uses wearable sensors and algorithms to detect and measure motor movements, enabling immediate feedback to patients on whether they are performing the exercises correctly.

S R I L A N K A

Lanka Bell Partners with IBM

Lanka Bell and IBM have partnered to expand cloud adoption in the country and is specifically targeting enterprises and SMEs.

- The partnership offers public, private and hybrid cloud services.

S O U T H K O R E A

Govt Supports Samsung's Self-Driving Vehicle

Samsung has received approval from the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport to test-run its self-driving car on roads. The self-driving vehicle uses technologies developed by Samsung and operates on a Hyundai vehicle.

- This comes as the govt seeks to ease regulations on self-driving cars to bolster industry growth.
- Since Feb 2016, the govt has approved nearly 20 test-runs of self-driving vehicles.

Impact Analysis: This development is a microcosm of the larger regulatory developments taking place in the country. The govt has also initiated a temporary ease of regulations on fintech to bolster innovation and growth in South Korea.

Hyundai Heavy Industries Partners Bahri on Smart Ship

The South Korean shipbuilder has signed an MoU with the Saudi shipping firm to develop technologies for a smart ship platform. Hyundai will develop the smart ship technologies and use them on Bahri's fleet.

- Hyundai launched the world's first smart ship system in 2011, which is used by some 300 ships.
- The smart ship system is backed by ICT and big data and allows ship owners to better manage their fleets and improve operational efficiency.

Impact Analysis: This development represents the cross-cutting impacts of ICT in a myriad of sectors; ICT technologies lead to higher levels of productivity and efficiency. For example, ship owners will be able to monitor their vessel's status and condition in real time.

SKT Launches Three IoT Devices

It has launched three IoT devices: 1) Keyco – an IoT-based keychain with an embedded GPS chip for pets that can be controlled by a smartphone; 2) Smart TocToc – an IoT-power alarm that sends alerts to the user's smartphone if there is an impact on their parked vehicle; 3) IoT Blackbox – a combination of video, audio and GPS for vehicles that sends a text message to an owner's smartphone for better remote monitoring.

- SK Telecom (SKT) plans to launch up to 50 IoT-based services and products by end-2017.

Impact Analysis: SKT's initiatives illustrate the impact innovative IoT applications can have on improving users' the quality of life.

Naver, LINE to Launch Smart Speaker

The South Korean Internet company, and its Japanese affiliate, will launch an AI-embedded smart speaker, WAVE, based on its AI virtual assistant, Clova Cloud.

- While WAVE will be launched in Japan under LINE, Naver is considering launching it in South Korea as well.
- Unlike other AI platforms, Clova utilises big data to provide a range of customised services, based on the user's culture and geography.
- Additionally, Naver has recently showcased a prototype of its In-Vehicle Infortainment platform, IVI, which allows users to utilise the Naver map and navigation services through the voice assistant programme.

Impact Analysis: This development echoes the govt's efforts in building up South Korea's AI and VR capabilities. Additionally, the govt is concerned about increasing the country's export of software and content. WAVE is an example of the potential of the country's ICT exports.

T A I W A N

Smart Device to Prevent Hospital Violence

A research team at Taipei Medical University (TMU) have developed a smart wearable device that monitors patients' health condition while allowing healthcare givers to maintain a safe distance from violent patients.

- Taiwanese healthcare providers have reported many incidences of violent attacks from patients, one-third of which were drunk.
- A Healthcare IoT medical research alliance which was established earlier in 2017, promotes "IoT in acute care" and "IoT in chronic care" using smart wearable devices.

Impact Analysis: This shows the cross-cutting nature of ICT technology and IoT devices across a myriad of sectors; from the healthcare industry, to automobiles, and the financial industry.

V I E T N A M

20 Smart Cities Planned

Proposals have been received by 20 provinces and cities nationwide, and the Ministry of Information and Communications (MIC) has been appointed as the focal point in developing the criteria to evaluate and recognise a smart city.

About the Asia Cloud Computing Association

The ACCA is a leading industry association comprising the stakeholders of the cloud computing ecosystem in Asia. The ACCA works to ensure that the interests of the cloud computing community are effectively represented in the public policy debate.

Our primary mission is to accelerate the growth of the cloud market in Asia, where we promote the growth and development of cloud computing in Asia Pacific through dialogue, training, and public education. Through regular meetings, we also provide a platform for members to discuss implementation and growth strategies, share ideas, and establish policies and best practices relating to the cloud computing ecosystem.

Like what you're reading? Interested in membership? Comments and critique? Contact us at info@asiacloudcomputing.org, visit us online at http://www.asiacloudcomputing.org. You can also find us on LinkedIn at http://is.gd/accacloud or @accacloud