



The days of fighting the cloud are over, Forrester Research says in its 2015 cloud forecast. Thus customers are to face major changes, be it in application architecture, portfolio and vendor relationships.

"The landscape for cloud computing changes quickly, so your business technology agenda must adapt just as rapidly," the analyst states. "Your business will earn an early mover advantage by keeping ahead of these changes."

As such Forrester has these predictions on the cloud come 2015.

1. **For Microsoft, cloud will trump on-premises:** Forrester predicts Microsoft will generate more revenue from the cloud than traditional on-premises applications, providing a upper hand in negotiations for businesses as sales teams push the cloud as much as possible.

2. **Back-office applications will need RESTful interfaces:** Developers working on linking apps together via APIs should be on the lookout for services communicating via REST interfaces, the analyst says. Thus companies should replace their enterprise service with an API management solution.

3. **Cloud breaches are a sure thing:** Breaches will happen, and it will be due to process and governance failures such as poor key management or a lack of security team training or perimeter-based thinking.

4. **Docker containers are here to stay:** Everyone, from Google to eBay and Amazon, is jumping on the Docker bandwagon, and this is no fad according to Forrester.

5. **Hybrid cloud management will mature:** Come 2015 enterprises will start figuring out how to take advantage of tools exposing private cloud resources to developers, at least so long

they stop creating artificial barriers between private and public clouds.

6. **Managed private clouds face a death spiral:** The on-premise, remotely managed private cloud, being a model with no lasting value, is doomed to dwindle significantly.

7. **Industry-specific SaaS will surge:** 2015 should be a good year for specialized SaaS vendors, Forrester predicts.

8. **SaaS vendors tiptoe towards hybrid:** SaaS vendors should also start offering hybrid models with at least some on-premise implementation.

9. **Cloud storage pricing wars will claim lives:** Basic online backup is not enough on its own, the analyst says, and the providers of such services need to provide services such as disaster-recover-as-a-service (DRaaS) and workload availability if they want to avoid the fate of the likes of the Symantec Backup Exec cloud.

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