



Research Report

Amidst Continuing Growth, Compuware Introduces Topaz on AWS and CloudBees Jenkins Enterprise

Introduction

If you asked me three years ago what I thought of Compuware, I would have described it as “a point product company in managed decline.” At the time, Compuware was bifurcated between mainframe point solutions and application performance management software. Sales had softened; it was slow to release new products; and its portfolio was “stagnant.” In short, the company was struggling.

But, in late 2014, everything changed for Compuware with a cash investment infusion; the hiring of a new, more focused management team; major changes in company culture (including a stronger emphasis on innovation); and the introduction of a new strategy with a strong focus on Development/Operations or DevOps, build/deploy; data management and cybersecurity. Accordingly, I wrote a [report](#) at the end of 2015 that described the new Compuware.

Nearly two years later, I see Compuware as a company focused on making it easy for customers to consume its product offerings – while at the same time being optimized to create new products and services. Its two most recent announcements include expanded Topaz on AWS (Amazon Web Services) solutions support for CloudBees Jenkins Enterprise.

The Topaz on AWS Announcement

Since January 2015, when Compuware promised to introduce new products and/or significant technology improvements every quarter, the company has been on a tear, expanding its Topaz DevOps product line to include Topaz for Enterprise Data; Topaz for Program Analysis; Topaz for Total Test and Topaz Workbench – and now offering its Topaz development environment in a cloud with Topaz on AWS.

A casual observer might look at Compuware’s new Topaz on AWS and think: “no big deal – many other vendors have taken their on-premises offerings and have moved them to AWS and other public clouds.” But those observers would be wrong – there’s much more to this Topaz on AWS story going on below the surface. In fact, Topaz on AWS:

- Enables users to get access to the latest-greatest features and functionality of Topaz without having to go through internal channels to upgrade and deploy their on-premise Topaz environments. This is hugely important because it provides sophisticated DevOps functionality to users more quickly than ever before – rapidly improving developer productivity.
- Simplifies the deployment of DevOps software, tools and related infrastructure – enabling enterprises to deploy DevOps solutions in minutes rather than waiting days or weeks. Customers setup Topaz on AWS by answering a few questions on a template – and they’re off-to-the-races;
- Frees administrators from having to support on premises desktop deployments; and,
- Enables enterprises to scale Topaz on demand – so the red tape involved in getting tools to developers to support new initiatives suddenly disappears.

The New Era of Analytics/Cognitive-Driven Cybersecurity

In short, Topaz on AWS users are able to increase their productivity and scale capacity whenever needed (especially useful for new projects) – while being able to quickly gain access to one of the richest mainframe Dev/Ops environments on the market.

Topaz on AWS leverages Amazon’s AppStream 2.0 technology – a managed, secure application streaming service that allows users to stream desktop applications from AWS to any device capable of running a Web browser. AWS maintains an extensive global infrastructure that ensures a highly secure and performant user experience.

Also noteworthy, there are no new charges for Topaz. Licenses can be used on premises, in the cloud, or in a mixed environment. Users do, however, need to pay to use the Amazon cloud (provisioning a virtual server in AWS should be in the \$.10 per hour range).

The CloudBees Jenkins Enterprise Announcement

In addition to its new Topaz on AWS offerings, Compuware also announced that the company is collaborating with CloudBees, a maker of building, testing and deployment products that speed applications to production by utilizing continuous delivery practices. Compuware’s ISPW (source code management and release automation environment), as well as Compuware’s Topaz for Total Test can be integrated with CloudBees’ Jenkins Enterprise (automated continuous delivery environment). The combination makes it possible for application developers to more easily integrate and orchestrate DevOps efforts across diverse platforms.

Also worth mentioning, developers now have to ability to set up Webhooks in ISPW to stream information about ISPW events to other DevOps tools and communicate with Jenkins to drive Continuous Integration processes. Team members can stay apprised of DevOps activities via Slack and HipChat.

Summary Observations

It is a joy to watch Compuware’s progress in the mainframe DevOps arena. The company has found a way to greatly expand its portfolio using internal development resources – and it has gotten “creative” by expanding its portfolio through dynamic partnerships (see this [report](#) for details on the company’s partnerships with AppDynamics, Atlassian, SonarSource, Splunk and others). Today the Compuware portfolio also contains solutions integrated with Software Engineering of America (SEA), XebiaLabs, CorreLog; Dynatrace, BMC, and Conic IT. All told, Compuware’s DevOps portfolio now spans developer productivity, code quality, continuous integration, source code management, release automation, test data management, application performance management and cybersecurity.

To date, Compuware has successfully delivered new, innovative product and solutions for twelve straight quarters. The company is making money. And it has a very interesting roadmap for bringing new products and functionality to market that includes new offerings in application understanding, code editing, data management, quality assurance, source and release management, performance and security. With all the progress the company has made to date, combined with what I know about its future plans, I can’t wait to see where Compuware is 12 quarters from now!

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October, 2017

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