THUNDERCAT TECHNOLOGY

A Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business

Modernizing infrastructure with a data-centric approach

ThunderCat, an SDVOSB with multiple contract vehicles, holds industry specific certifications and provides industry leading resources to help federal and commercial customers achieve their mission.

Our results-oriented consultative approach and a creative ideology provide immediate value to customers. We are active with various veterans' charities and are founded and owned by a combat wounded veteran who truly believes in giving back to the community.

The demands on an agency's data center environment are constantly evolving alongside the mission of government. In the past, agency tools, employees, data, hardware, and algorithms have been siloed under role-based solutions, but many agencies are approaching an inflection point where they need all elements of their data center infrastructure consolidated in one place.

Since 2008, ThunderCat Technology has worked to provide agencies with the efficient, agile, and cost-effective solutions needed to build the most scalable and reliable data center infrastructure possible. By providing strategies for data management, cloud computing, cybersecurity, application innovation, collaboration, and AI, ThunderCat helps agencies update their aging infrastructure, migrate to the cloud, monitor application performance, and much more.

Challenges

As agencies transition from role-based operations to a more data-centric approach, ThunderCat helps address their most pressing challenges, including:

- Aging infrastructures – The legacy systems many agencies use cannot keep up with the continual surges in data growth occurring across the public sector
- Siloed data – Agency data must be copied and moved across tools multiple times to get the full picture and to allow multiple teams to utilize it, creating security vulnerabilities and opportunities for mismanagement, often resulting in technical debt
- Hardware limitations – Many agencies' hardware is limited by cost, compute, and capacity, only able to handle the specific data it was built to focus on
- Post-disaster downtime – Malicious attacks and incidents caused by human error or natural disasters can create significant downtime as IT systems recover, slowing down operational speeds and increasing costs
- Treatment of data as a byproduct – Data is viewed widely across the public sector as a byproduct of day-to-day operations when in reality, it is a vital product itself. Agencies should be striving to make their data centralized, enriched, available, open, secure, and interoperable

Outdated Solutions

According to a recent survey, 74% of government IT professionals say their agency holds onto out-dated data centers longer than they should. 62% of respondents believe their agency needs to make more effective data center migration decisions. Concerns such as high costs, loss of control over essential data, and length of time migration would take were common across the board. However, when respondents who were already engaging in data center transformation were asked to provide advice for their more wary counterparts, they suggest-ed that other agencies:

- Develop a migration plan sooner
- Urge key decision makers to hire cloud-savvy personnel
- Expose shortcomings of existing data centers early and often
- Invest in staff training
- Don't fear modernization, fear sticking with the status quo

t 703.674.0216 | www.thundercattech.com

Contract Information – GSA MAS: 47QTCA24D00EM | SEWP Prime: NNG15SD26B and NNG15SC92B
NAICS: 423430, 541519 | CAGE Code: 50WM7 | UEI: UER4AJLUB8D5

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Comprehensive Data Governance

Before climbing the mountain of building a strong and efficient data infrastructure, agencies must take a single step, namely, accounting for the data they already have. An agencywide data governance strategy is crucial for standardizing reporting, implementing security procedures, discovering potential use cases for data, and more. A few best practices for getting started include:

- Create a data management committee – Pull members from all sectors of the agency to advocate for data stewardship and determine best business and security protocols
- Demonstrate business value – Offer tangible end goals to leadership when discussing data governance to help increase their commitment to a data culture
- Prepare for the future – New technologies and federal mandates are constantly emerging. Make sure the agency is evolving with the times and incorporating modern solutions to maximize data output
- Partner with industry – Private sector partners offer an outside perspective, allowing them to objectively determine best practices and install them on the front end, ensuring data governance strategies are implemented smoothly

Solutions

To maximize the power of data and the ability to use it securely where it resides, ThunderCat works with its agency partners on the following key improvement areas:

- IT Automation – Automating repeatable IT functions helps to streamline application deployment, installation, and management while also facilitating faster disaster recovery
- Backup and Recovery – Comprehensive data protection solutions help agencies gain confidence that their data is adequately protected and recoverable from any scenario, whether human error or an external cyberattack
- Enterprise Storage – ThunderCat delivers high-performing, scalable, and secure storage for both structured and unstructured data throughout the entirety of its lifecycle
- Virtualization – Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI) helps agencies increase control over their desktops, applications, and data by managing them as centralized services, while delivering applications securely to remote workers regardless of endpoint type
- Server Infrastructure – ThunderCat helps agencies consolidate their compute, storage, and networks into one integrated system with rack and blade servers and hyper-converged infrastructure (HCI)

Government Success Story

ThunderCat, along with a team of technology partners, recently aided a major government agency in their mission to strengthen our nation's security while also energizing the economy and reducing risk from disasters. The agency was in need of a healthy, reliable IT infrastructure to replace its costly and vulnerable legacy compute environment. The ThunderCat team architected a world-class service delivery platform for the agency which entailed converting physical systems into secure virtual machines and creating a central processing center where a catalog of recovery points would be maintained for data monitoring and quick, reliable recovery as needed. Initial results are impressive – overall system performance has improved, and data consolidation efforts have led to a more repeatable, reliable, and optimal end-user experience, enabling more secure and successful mission achievement for the agency.

Partner with ThunderCat

A strong and resilient data center infrastructure is one built around data as the foundation, rather than focusing on tools or people as the nucleus. Tools should be viewed as a lens into that data, making key insights readily available to the employees utilizing them.

The transition to a more unified data fabric may be gradual but making that shift will provide agencies increased visibility into their data, more secure stewardship of that data, and ultimately, increased business value and operational efficiency. ThunderCat has the expertise and partnerships available to walk agencies through the transition and help them navigate their unique, ever-changing needs. For more information, visit www.thundercattech.com

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Data Center Infrastructure

Connectivity & Cabling

- Fiber Optic Transceivers (SFP, SFP+, QSFP, QSFP28)
- Ethernet Cables (Cat5e, Cat6, Cat6a, Cat7, Cat8)
- Fiber Optic Cables (Single-mode, Multi-mode)
- Direct Attach Cables (DACs)
- Active Optical Cables (AOCs)
- Power Cords (C13, C19, C20, L5-30P, etc.)
- Console Cables (RJ45-DB9, USB-to-Serial)
- KVM Cables (Combo cables for video + USB/PS2)

Cable Management & Patching

- Patch Panels / Patch Bays (Ethernet and fiber)
- Cable Management Arms (for server racks)
- Velcro Straps and Zip Ties
- Cable Trays and Ladder Racks
- Brush Panels (for cable passthrough and dust reduction)
- Cable Labels / Tags / Heat Shrink Labels

Racks & Mounting Hardware

- Rack Rails and Sliding Shelves
- Blanking Panels (for airflow management)
- Fixed or Rotating Rack Shelves
- Rack PDUs (Power Distribution Units)

Power & Environmental

- UPS Batteries (Uninterruptible Power Supply modules)
- Power Splitters / Adapters
- Inline Power Meters
- Environmental Sensors (temperature, humidity, airflow)
- Cooling Fans and Airflow Panels / Baffles

KVM (KVM (Keyboard, Video, Mouse) Components

- KVM Switches (rack-mounted or desktop)
- KVM Console Drawers (fold-out LCD + keyboard)
- KVM Extenders (USB + video over Cat5/Cat6 or fiber)
- IP KVMs (remote management over IP)
- KVM Cable Kits (integrated video + mouse/keyboard cables)
- USB Hubs or Switches (for shared access between systems)
- Video Splitters or Adapters (HDMI, VGA, DVI, DisplayPort)

Data Backup Components

- External Backup Drives (HDDs, SSDs)
- Tape Drives and Cartridges
- Backup Appliances
- Network Attached Storage (NAS) Units
- Storage Area Network (SAN) Components
- RAID Controllers and Enclosures
- Backup Power Supplies for Storage Systems
- Cloud Backup Gateways

Monitoring & Tools

- Loopback Plugs (Ethernet/fiber for diagnostics)
- Optical Power Meters
- Ethernet Cable Testers / Certifiers
- Fiber Inspection Scopes
- Label Printers
- ESD Wrist Straps and Anti-static Mats
- Portable KVM dongles (for quick access to headless servers)

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