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DIMENSION DATA LAUNCHES DATA CENTRE MATURITY TOOL TO HELP COMPANIES MIGRATE TO THE NEXT-GENERATION DATA CENTRE

Simplifies roadmaps and strategies for data centre transformation

Johannesburg, South Africa– 31 March 2015 – Dimension Data, the USD 6.7 billion global ICT solutions and services provider, today launched a new maturity tool that helps organisations assess their capabilities and prioritise initiatives for building a next-generation data centre. The Data Centre Development Model – the first assessment that covers such a broad spectrum of the data centre – was created off the back of strong demand from clients seeking guidance and actionable plans to make their data centres more responsive and agile.

According to Steve Joubert, Group Executive for Data Centres at Dimension Data, global competitive pressures brought on by social, mobile, analytics and cloud have had a tremendous impact on data centres to transform to remain relevant. “Every client we speak to, is looking for ways to transform their data centres to become more responsive to business needs. This is not an easy undertaking.”

With the expansion of the data centre beyond traditional boundaries to include cloud, networking and security, it’s important to look at these areas holistically and not in isolation. A change in one area can have a costly impact in another. Most IT departments still have siloed functions and don’t understand the impact of their projects on other parts of the infrastructure, including the data centre. And deciding where to start for the maximum benefit, isn’t easy either.

For example, Dimension Data has seen that virtualisation and converged infrastructure projects that don’t include a review and strategy for the underlying network, can increase the ultimate cost of the project three-fold.

“It’s with this in mind that we developed the Data Centre Development Model. It’s all about helping our clients make the shift to new operating models across the entire next-generation data centre, while focussing on business outcomes with technology being the enabler and differentiator, instead of a hindrance,” said Joubert.

Dimension Data’s Data Centre Development Model is ideal for organisations that need to understand the requirements of building a future-state data centre. The Model scrutinises the 11 critical domains in the data centre (“as-is” state) and what their future needs are (“to-be” state). The output of the workshop-style engagement is a roadmap which provides practical implementation recommendations for the most valuable initiatives around their data centre. Recommendations include:

- identifying infrastructure gaps in an organisation;
- determining the most efficient operating model for the data centre, inclusive of management and operations;
- understanding the best ways to exploit public cloud, hosting, and co-location where it creates value for the business;
- ensuring the network is geared to support the journey of transformation; and
- embedding security at every step of the journey.

Joubert said that Dimension Data has already helped a number of organisations using its Data Centre Development Model with excellent results. “We helped one organisation build a virtual data centre, which delivered a 30% reduction in real estate through consolidation and data centre design. Another client saw new resources deliver services 75% faster to its end-users leveraging network extensions to cloud resources.”

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About Dimension Data

Founded in 1983, Dimension Data plc is an ICT services and solutions provider that uses its technology expertise, global service delivery capability, and entrepreneurial spirit to accelerate the business ambitions of its clients. Dimension Data is a member of the NTT Group.

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