

Ex-NASA CTO's Cloud in a Box

Written by Marco Attard
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Nebula reveals what it calls "the world's first enterprise cloud computer"-- the Nebula One, an OpenStack-based system designed to provide even the smallest customers with an Amazon-style cloud.



Leading Nebula is ex-NASA CTO Chris Kemp, the man responsible for space agency's shift to the cloud before forming the company with a number OpenStack engineers.

According to the company the Nebula One is a "turnkey private cloud system" providing customers with compute, network and storage services through the combination of self-service interface, popular APIs and industry-standard servers from the likes of HP, IBM and Dell.

The key device in the system is the Nebula Cloud Controller-- a hardware appliance able to turn regular servers into an on-premise Infrastructure-as-a-Service (IaaS) once connected to a network. It runs on Cosmos (Nebula's own cloud OS) and leverages on the open source OpenStack platform to ensure compatibility with Amazon EC2/S3 and OpenStack APIs.

The system scales from single-rack to multi-rack deployments (up to 1600 processor cores, 9.4TB of memory and 2.3PB of storage) to handle the needs of both medium- and large-size businesses.

One current Nebula One user is PARC, who says "researchers can now use and reuse the

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readily-available compute resources they need from the Nebula One cloud, provisioning in minutes what once took days to manually provision or months to procure."

The Nebula One is available now.

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