

VIEWPOINT



Michael Szabados

NETSCOUT Chief Operating Officer

Michael Szabados has served as NETSCOUT's Chief Operating Officer since April 2007, focusing on the implementation and execution of the Company's vision and strategy. He has also served on NETSCOUT's Board of Directors as Vice Chairman since February 2019. As COO, he has played a pivotal role in leading, integrating, and adapting NETSCOUT's functional areas as the Company grew dramatically through organic expansion and multiple acquisitions.

Learn more about how Smart Data offers greater end-to-end visibility at www.netscout.com

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CIO
FROM IDG

Gain Greater Visibility into Complex Environments

Modern enterprises are grappling with a deluge of data and an increasingly fluid, complex, and evolving infrastructure. When compounded with the ongoing cloud transformation, maintaining visibility and control to prevent service disruptions and security breaches are critical. Physical, on-premises infrastructure continues to transition toward multiple cloud domains, which also requires greater agility. We caught up with Michael Szabados, COO of NetScout to hear his thoughts on how organizations can best accomplish their data management goals to improve overall visibility.

Q: What is behind this impetus for better data?

A: Successful data-driven businesses strive to improve data quality, but quickly realize it is also about getting high quality data from an increasingly complex environment. The goal is to analyze data at speed. Poor data quality costs companies in hard dollars, but time is the real factor. NetScout helps customers quickly create Smart Data by observing communications like wire data, traffic, and packets for critical use cases—like improving business operations, security, and application performance.

Q: What is driving this level of data complexity?

A: We've seen so much technology transformation and yet IT still has the same basic objective. When supporting the business, everything all has to work consistently at the right level of performance and security. Cloud technologies have transformed the data center, providing the agility and flexibility business requires, but have also increased complexity. One other long-term factor driving complexity is a continued focus on digital transformation, which requires the advanced capacity to manage the security, performance, and availability of digital services.

Q: How does the migration to the cloud contribute to overall risk factors?

A: Organizations have been transforming their footprint from physical to virtual and now to the cloud. The data center is being reimagined as the hybrid multi-cloud, but technology choices can restrict visibility. This is a central risk factor. While the improved agility and flexibility of the cloud are well established, the fragmented nature of

transformed infrastructures demands what NetScout calls Visibility Without Borders. This is about gaining a simplified yet meaningful level of understanding of the communications between services and the infrastructure regardless of physical location.

Q: How can large organizations minimize the risk?

A: IT has to ensure the business can maintain continuous end-to-end visibility. That level of knowledge reduces risk, and being able to rapidly change course can save sleepless nights. Business demands answers to that same old question—is my service meeting user or customer expectations and is it protected from security and performance interruptions? We answer a deeper question: How well is my secure digital service working and how fast can I respond? You have to manage the transition and journey with confidence.

The biggest differentiator with NetScout is our approach—what we call Visibility Without Borders, which is made possible because of Smart Data. We empower IT to find and fix critical errors, latencies, and security problems at a global scale without losing the contextual detail. We extract the most critical information—across any technology—to accelerate and protect digital initiatives spanning entire ecosystems of platforms, providers, and locations. We simultaneously examine and analyze the data and automate the process so IT has the key metrics and data they need in real time to ensure secure and agile operations.