

10 hot data-center virtualization startups to watch

Well-funded startups are streamlining data centers with products including software-defined servers and software-defined block storage as well as providing multi-cloud application support and data as a service.

By [Jeff Vance](#)

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[Sea Street](#)

What they do: Provide an AI-based autonomous-operations platform

Year founded: 2012

Funding: \$41 million raised in two rounds of funding, investors not disclosed.

Headquarters: Wakefield, Mass.

CEO: Harley Stowell, who previously was Cisco's CTO, Worldwide Service Provider Cloud & Managed Services

Problem they solve: Delivering enterprise application services and the cloud infrastructure that supports them is a labor-intensive, error-prone, difficult-to-scale task.

Sea Street argues that in order to scale to meet end-user demands,

all applications and all IT services will eventually need to be rendered as services operating in converged virtual infrastructure.

How they solve it: Sea Street's AI-based autonomous operations platform, StratOS, enables enterprises and service providers to deliver services as fully autonomous, closed-loop operations.

StratOS manages both applications and multi-cloud infrastructure based on policy, and it continuously creates, updates and programs system architectures to meet the needs of the applications and the policies.

StratOS is built on designable micro-intelligences that the startup calls Objectives. These are goal-seeking, intelligent software objects. They interoperate and cooperate to create autonomous services, compound services and even division-level service operations.

Sea Street describes Objectives as being like bees in a hive: a set of Objectives runs a service, while a swarm of Objectives runs an enterprise. They enable organizations to automate the enterprise element by element, a service at a time.

Competitors include: BMC, itential, SaltStack and Chef

Customers include: Cox Communications

Why they're a hot startup to watch: CEO Harley Stowell's background at Cisco is a big plus, as is the fact that he joined Cisco by selling his previous startup, LineSider Technologies, to them. Plus Sea Street has \$41 million in funding and a major customer in Cox Communication.

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