# **HPE's Initiatives for Digital Transformation in Africa:** Education, Training, and **Partnerships**

Akim Benamara. Founder of TechAfrica News. and Xavier Poisson Gouyou Beauchamps, Global Vice President, Service Providers. HPE discuss how they can drive digital transformation in the continent by establishing a unified digital market and deploying trusted cloud services.

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Smart

collaborative

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Summit 2023



HPE

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has

several

of Smart Africa?

#### INTERVIEW BY:

been

with

Africa. Could you provide

more details about these

initiatives and explain why

it's crucial for HPE to be part

Today, we have the vision to

important for us to be connected

with Africa because we've been

partnering with Smart Africa for

the past four years with a vision to

people's

Akim Benamara Founder of TechAfrica News

> enterprises. Our participation in Smart Africa as a technology partner for South Africa aligns with this objective.

> Over the four course of we have progressed years, from conceptualization to execution and are currently in the implementation phase. We anticipate deploying three clouds, one in Ghana, Florida, and Djibouti, as proof of value design for South Africa. We have

establish a unified digital market. 66 Our global IT vision revolves around delivering edge-to-cloud services One of these challenges is data to individuals and businesses. protection, as demonstrated by the example of UCS in Europe. Therefore, we joined the data centre on the Cloud workstream. Implementing robust data protection measures is crucial. Together with Smart Africa, we've By establishing a nationally worked on a concept note and

this concern effectively.

**XAVIER POISSON GOUYOU BEAUCHAMPS** 

GLOBAL VP, SERVICE PROVIDERS

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also engaged directly with other countries, collaborating with local service providers that could serve as public health partners for their respective nations. Our aim is to bring them into the Smart Africa network.

you explain Could how the decentralised cloud Federation pilot will benefit local cloud service providers and resellers in the selected African Smart **Member** States?

To understand the benefits, we need to consider the economics cloud computing. When of enterprises rely on hyper-scale cloud providers, they face various challenges. One of these challenges is data protection, as demonstrated by the example of UCS in Europe. Implementing robust data protection measures is crucial. By establishing a nationally trusted cloud, we can address this concern effectively.

trusted cloud, we can address executed proof of value, focusing

on building a national trusted cloud in an African country. This cloud will provide public and private cloud services in a secure manner to both government entities and





# 66

We believe in building human capacity, and thus, we have been working closely with SADA, the Virtual University of Smart Africa, to provide content and deliver training over the past three years. Our goal is to ensure that all members of Smart Africa in every country can learn about cloud technology.

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issue Another arises when connecting to global providers like Amazon and Azure, given the telecommunications landscape in Africa. The costs incurred are primarily outbound telco costs rather than in-country telco costs. This situation is detrimental to the economics and affordability of cloud services. We firmly believe that having cloud infrastructure within Africa will serve as an accelerator for digitizing government services and enable the introduction of vertical data spaces as a service. This means not only digitizing government e-services but also facilitating digital transformation within specific industries such as agriculture, mining, and financial services.

Furthermore, sustainability is a key aspect. With the presence of a cloud, workloads can be centralised, reducing the need for purchasing and underutilizing numerous servers. This consolidation contributes to environmental sustainability, bringing about a positive green effect.

#### So, what initiatives has HPE undertaken to support digital transformation in Africa, and how are these initiatives making a difference?

The first thing we are doing is fostering the acceleration of national clouds. To achieve this, the initial step is creating awareness through education and training.

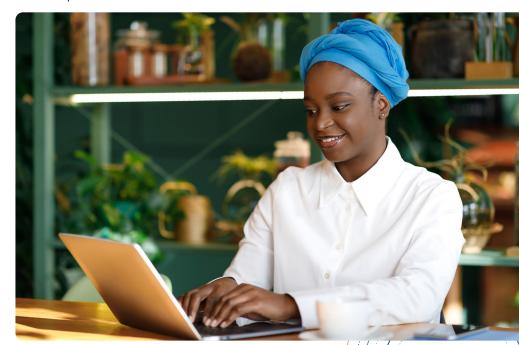
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The third point is that we are fortunate to have a strong presence in Africa. We have partnered with various local organisations that share our vision for a new cloud delivery model. We also collaborate with highly skilled value-added resellers and system integrators to bring our ideas to life.

These are the different initiatives we have undertaken. Additionally, we are involved in other projects related to data space and digitising processes. One such initiative is the Global Alliance to Improve Nutrition, funded by the Gates Foundation.Our aim is to comprehensively digitise the process of fortifying food and improving its nutritional value. This will help people eat safely and receive the necessary nutrients. We are currently working on this project for the Gain Association, and the first three countries where it will be implemented are India, Bangladesh, and Nigeria. We hope to have a service provider in Nigeria before the 12th.







## So we're here at Victoria Falls, and it's the first time the Smart Africa Transforms Summit is being held outside of Kigali. I'd like to know your thoughts on the past three days.

I believe the past three days have been a success here at Victoria Falls for the Smart Africa Transforms Summit. It's the first time the summit is being held outside of Kigali, and we've seen active participation from numerous African countries. One notable highlight was the presence of six presidents who attended and recognized the importance accelerating of progress. Under the leadership of Smart Africa, we are now entering a phase of execution, which is a critical step forward.

Let me provide you with an example to illustrate our potential. Yesterday evening, you were present at the signing ceremony with KX. We are proud members 66

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of both KX HPE and Smart Africa, and our engagement with KX has been particularly active. We have been contemplating whether we can implement a clearing house service for KX, catering to service providers who currently lack customers. When I realized this opportunity, I immediately suggested that you meet with the representatives from KX. By doing so, we have the chance to leapfrog the progress that European

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service providers have been striving for over the past five years. This immediate implementation or even integrating the clearing house software provided by KX into our cloud Federation design would foster trust and expedite our advancements.

This showcases how Africa can take the lead in this conference. Our booth, situated away from the crowd, has served as a hub for learning about the latest developments and exchanging experiences on best practices. I found the experience highly engaging and truly fascinating. Additionally, we organized conferences on the Pan African interfaith and the digital economy, and I had the opportunity to participate in the Green For Green discussion panel, facilitated by the World Bank. We also conducted a session on Data Center Ankara, which proved to be highly rewarding.





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