Accelerate Your Multi-Cloud Transformation

Speed, choice and control for multi-cloud transformation

Some of the compelling reasons companies move to a multi-cloud environment:[2]

- 35 percent revenue increase from faster modern app delivery
- 41 percent fewer hours and costs spent on IT infrastructure
- 35 percent productivity savings across a distributed workforce

The great cloud transformation is well underway. Organizations across all industries are at various stages of modernizing their applications and moving workloads and infrastructure to cloud platforms. In fact, 73 percent of enterprises are already using two or more public clouds—and by 2024, 81 percent of enterprises expect to be multi-cloud.[1]

While the business goals and schedule for this cloud-first approach are often well-defined, the path to realize them is not. There are significant technical, organizational and operational hurdles to overcome, and some organizations have found these challenges more difficult and time-consuming than expected. Managing multi-cloud environments can be especially challenging. Too often, IT capabilities and resources haven't been fully addressed.

Despite the benefits, research shows that nearly one in four executives[3] have concerns about using multiple clouds, including:

- Security, data or privacy issues
- Inconsistent infrastructure in APIs, databases, networks and security
- The need for specialized skills to support public clouds
- Managing/optimizing spend
- Increased complexity from policies that manage individual environments

This executive summary describes how a multi-cloud strategy can help you translate your business goals into technology initiatives by prioritizing application and end-user needs, and by defining a governance and management framework. The right strategy can also articulate the operational capabilities needed to lower the risks associated with adopting multi-cloud technologies—and the right solution can take the pain out of multi-cloud management.

1. VMware FY22 H2 Benchmark: Digital Momentum, August 2021.
2. VMware FY22 H1 Benchmark, March 2021.
3. VMware July 2021 Digital Momentum Study: N=201 Technology Decision Makers using 2+ Public Clouds citing benefits from recent digital initiatives.

Using the five Rs as a guide

For many organizations, multi-cloud value is derived from setting a confident path for business and technology teams to benefit from the five Rs:

1. Retain – Leave or consolidate workloads in a private cloud environment based on security, privacy and performance requirements.
2. Rehost – Move applications to the best cloud environment based on individual app requirements.
3. Replatform – Retool an application to take advantage of cloud services and technology without changing its core architecture. Replatforming usually means leveraging container technologies to improve deployment speed while evolving to a more flexible, reliable architecture.
4. Refactor/build – Rewrite an application at the source-code level to better support its environment and take advantage of modern application design, microservices or cloud native principles.
5. Retire – Decommission an application or replace it with a software-as-a-service (SaaS) alternative.

These five approaches will help you accelerate, rapidly migrate and modernize your apps in any cloud.

Embracing a cloud-based operating model

The right cloud platform can deliver multi-cloud services that span the data center, edge and any cloud, including native cloud services. The platform should be optimized for traditional and modern apps, and should unify all environments with consistent operations and security, delivering the reliability, resiliency and governance that organizations need, while reducing total cost of ownership.

A cloud-based operating model can provide choice by delivering to any place or cloud that an organization requires. This approach is foundational to a horizontal and flexible architecture, enabling a non-disruptive and largely automated multi-cloud transformation across three key areas:

• Applications – Traditional to modern

• Operations – IT ops to DevOps

• Location – Data center only to a mix of the data center, cloud and edge

In addition, a cloud-based operating model provides a technology foundation that enables and accelerates organizational and operational change. This foundation helps you build competencies in cloud operations, service delivery and governance at the pace of your business with immediate, tangible results.

Why accelerate app modernization?

The rise of modern app frameworks allows a synchronized app pipeline to leverage the best of all platforms. The top reasons why organizations adopt modern apps include:[4]

1. Freedom from environment constraints
2. Optimal data control
3. Integration with any cloud service

Operations	Governance	Services
Unify operations	Manage cost constraints	Deliver service faster
Accelerate modernization	Lower risk exposure	Unlock app innovation
Streamline migrations	Ensure compliance	Support DevOps principles

Figure 1: Cloud-based operating model.

Focus your multi-cloud strategy on speed, choice and control

By running your modern and legacy applications on the same platform, you can achieve fast, least-disruptive methodologies for supporting your digital business initiatives. This enables you to choose which applications to retain, migrate or modernize. To navigate the challenges of multi-cloud adoption, focus on three key benefits: speed, choice and control.

Key benefit	Common digital business strategy	Time frame
Speed (Quickest time to value)	Minimize disruption in transforming to cloud – Extend VMware solutions to the cloud to migrate workloads or add capacity, all with familiar tools, skills and core processes.	Immediate
	Reduce deployment times – Get apps and features to users quicker with automated and standardized cloud services.	After integrating the app release process
	Faster mergers and acquisitions – Shorten the process of spinning up cloud resources, migrating workloads and shutting down old infrastructure to weeks, not months.	As needed

4. VMware FY22 H1 Benchmark, March 2021.

Key benefit	Common digital business strategy	Time frame
Choice (No limits)	Reduce data center footprint – Take advantage of cloud resources on demand for either temporary or long-term use to reduce resources needed to manage infrastructure.	After cloud migration
	Reduce migration cost and effort – Migrate applications without refactoring or replatforming using familiar VMware tools.	Immediate
	Scale as needed – Deploy workloads based on technical or business requirements. Migrate or redeploy without vendor lock-in when conditions change.	Ongoing as needed
Control (Least disruptive)	Reduce software license costs – Retire older hosts and increase workload density to cut unnecessary expenses.	With consolidation
	Reduce risk – Streamline compliance across environments, reduce hybrid cloud and modern application complexity, and link policies to workloads.	Immediate

Figure 2: Benefits of a multi-cloud strategy.

Get started

A successful multi-cloud solution combines proven, trusted products that work with new and existing applications, both in your data center and in the public cloud. No matter where you are in your multi-cloud journey, VMware can help your organization with the following milestones to achieve value and success:

- Develop a cloud strategy.
- Define a service-oriented cloud operating model.
- Assess IT operational readiness, including team structure, roles, skillsets, processes and technologies.
- Determine the degree of operational change needed for evolving to blended, cross-functional lifecycle management teams.
- Prepare your organization for change.
- Modify behaviors through learning paths and reviews.
- Plan for a proof-of-value-based launch, focusing on speed, choice and control.

Reasons to believe

VMware has built some of the largest and most successful cloud environments in the world. Our experts understand the opportunities and challenges that cloud adoption and operations present, including the challenges specific to a multi-cloud environment.

To help organizations accelerate their cloud transformations, we created *VMware Cross-Cloud™ services*—an integrated portfolio of SaaS solutions to build, deploy, run, manage, connect and secure applications in a multi-cloud environment. We help you innovate across clouds with five core capabilities:

1. App platform for building and deploying cloud native apps
2. Cloud management for monitoring and managing app performance across clouds
3. Cloud and edge infrastructure for running enterprise apps anywhere
4. Security and networking to connect clouds and apps
5. Anywhere Workspace for employees to securely access any app on any device

For more information on VMware Cross-Cloud services, visit *vmware.com/cross-cloud-services*.

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