10 considerations for managing a hybrid multicloud environment

How to simplify IT management to maximize cloud benefits
Accelerating digital transformation with cloud is a key priority for many organizations. They need to maximize ROI on existing infrastructure, while creating a cloud environment for new revenue streams and higher-value business models to offer a competitive differentiation.

Most enterprises view their future cloud environments as both hybrid and multicloud. In a hybrid approach, clients run applications across traditional IT, private and public cloud infrastructures. In a multicloud approach, they use multiple cloud providers to support enterprise workloads.

A hybrid multicloud environment enables businesses to innovate with scale and agility, improving responsiveness and constraining cost.

Yet a hybrid multicloud can introduce a new level of complexity. Organizations are struggling to manage traditional and cloud environments seamlessly, including applications and data across data centers and public and private cloud infrastructures.

Organizations need help building and managing new multicloud environments and orchestrating next-generation enterprise applications alongside legacy and migrated environments.

In this ebook, we share considerations for implementing visibility, security, automation and governance to manage the complexity of a hybrid multicloud environment.
1. Improve efficiency to speed innovation

Successfully implementing a hybrid cloud strategy often means collaborating with a combination of vendors and service providers that can offer your organization the skills, processes and technology to execute at scale. By partnering with a single management entity, organizations can gain operational and cost efficiencies.

VE Commercial Vehicles (VECV), with help from IBM® Services™, has modernized commercial vehicle manufacturing to bring VECV the speed and efficiency it requires to innovate for the future. With robust infrastructure support and managed services from IBM, VECV simplifies and streamlines coverage for its multivendor environment across locations, accelerating issue resolution, increasing productivity, boosting availability and enhancing business continuity for its IT operations.

Watch the video to learn how VE Commercial Vehicles reduced downtime with support from IBM.

26% of IT leaders say they can effectively monitor and manage their IT environment across applications, clouds, servers, mainframes, network and storage units.²
2. Mitigate risk by establishing a cyber-resilience strategy

Security is both a driver and an inhibitor to hybrid cloud adoption. Critical data must be protected according to governance requirements, but this can be challenging in a cloud environment.

A cyber-resilience strategy helps ensure data and application availability and reliability. Without proper cyber-resilience, organizations can find themselves increasingly susceptible to attacks that can paralyze operations.

In addition to malicious attacks, the increasing number of regulations spanning different geographies and industries can render an organization at risk of serious fines without continuous validation of controls. A resilient organization is one that can adapt and recover from attacks. Cyber-resilience is now becoming a competitive advantage.

Read the IDC report on the five key technologies for establishing a cyber-resilience framework.

50% of security professionals now spend most of their time securing the cloud.
Deliver the services consumers expect through a federated operating model

Digital transformation can’t happen without a cloud strategy. And since most organizations will use multiple clouds, they need a way to manage them using a single cloud management platform.

Centralized IT operations often have rigid controls that don’t align with a developer-driven IT model. However, enterprises and their service providers need a common operations, compliance and governance cadence for cloud. Without that, the digital enterprise cannot scale. It’s critical to embrace a “born in the cloud, run and manage in the enterprise” philosophy.

Best practice is to create a developer-driven cloud operations model that federates services and capabilities from multiple providers at all levels of the stack. This approach provides enterprise developers, DevOps and IT operations teams with choice and consistency while avoiding provider lock-in.

Learn how IBM Multicloud Management Platform can help simplify hybrid management.

23% of IT leaders say they can effectively view and manage end-to-end IT operations across traditional IT, public and private clouds, and across cloud service providers.
4. Navigate the complexities of cloud to deliver the services your customers expect

Orchestrating next-generation enterprise applications and new custom builds alongside legacy and migrated environments can be complex. According to a study by the IBM Institute for Business Value, more than 60 percent of respondents don’t have the tools and procedures to manage and operate in a complex multicloud environment. That is where a managed cloud services provider can become a valuable trusted partner in your digital transformation.

The digital era calls for a new type of managed cloud services provider—one that offers counsel and advice in addition to maintenance and optimization.

In this report, Frost & Sullivan shares results from a recent survey of IT decision makers. It shows how organizations rely on their managed cloud service providers to realize their digital transformation strategies.

Read the results of a survey of IT decision makers on their managed cloud service providers.

76% of IT leaders say managed cloud services are an essential part of their IT strategy.
Bolster infrastructure resiliency and reliability to accelerate your journey to cloud

Traditional enterprises need to modernize their on-premises infrastructure to enable a hybrid cloud architecture. For those that have spent decades investing in this infrastructure, it’s best to continue using existing systems to maximize ROI, minimize vendor lock-in and optimize change management.

Working with IBM Services, Turkey’s İşbank migrated its servers, applications and operational data to a Tier 4 data center in nine months without disrupting the services its customers depend on. The new data center helps ensure banking services are available to customers 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

By supporting banking operations with an infrastructure designed for enhanced security, resiliency and reliability, the new data center provides a platform to accelerate İşbank’s journey to cloud computing—its next major IT initiative.

Watch the video to see how IBM helped İşbank build a resilient IT infrastructure and data center to minimize risks to business continuity.

41% of organizations expect cloud management platforms to help manage IT consistently across traditional data centers and multicloud IT environments.
Monitor and manage hybrid IT across locations and providers

The growing deployment of hybrid multicloud infrastructure is driving the need for consistent cross-platform management. This includes the management, governance, orchestration and security of the overall modern enterprise architecture.

Workload stability issues don’t go away when you move to the cloud. In fact, solving them can be more complex when you don’t own the infrastructure and your application workloads are spread across public, private or hybrid cloud environments.

A holistic, integrated approach to management and optimization across these environments is necessary to realize the scale of cloud and the reliability of your existing infrastructure.

IBM Integrated Managed Infrastructure Services can help simplify hybrid infrastructure management with pay-as-you-need modular services. IBM can globally deliver dynamic remote management services for a broad range of traditional and cloud infrastructures using advanced automation and analytics.

Watch this demo to learn how IBM Integrated Managed Infrastructure Services can help you manage your hybrid multicloud environment.

98% of organizations plan to use multiple hybrid clouds within three years.
7. Automate multicloud management to focus on innovation

Many of the benefits associated with multicloud deployments—from faster operations to reduced costs—rely on automating core IT processes. In a multicloud environment, enterprises need a layer of automated management so their business can scale with the expansion of services.

With increased IT automation a near-universal goal, it’s no surprise that organizations are pursuing a number of strategies to improve the ROI of their automation investments. One of the top ways to do so is by leveraging analytics, which not only help organizations identify which processes to automate, but also help measure the effectiveness of any automation efforts.

For quick stats on automation and multicloud management, check out this infographic.

51% of multicloud organizations are too busy to innovate.5
8.

Transform enterprise connectivity to ease IT infrastructure management

As business requirements evolve, traditional wide-area networks are becoming less agile and performance-ready and more complex and costly.

A seamless hybrid/software-defined WAN provides improved global agility and simplified management and makes your network cloud-ready for digital transformation.

A hybrid/SD-WAN routes network traffic dynamically, providing considerably more usable bandwidth compared to traditional networks at a significantly lower cost.

Watch the demo to learn how IBM Services can provide efficient management and operation of your WAN environment.

79% of IT leaders say visibility of IT operations across traditional and cloud environments is an important capability of managing a hybrid multicloud environment.
Aim for best-in-class managed infrastructure for your cloud environment

StarKist is one of the largest and best-known names in the packaged foods industry—a business that relies on complex global supply chains. StarKist collaborated with IBM Services to manage its SAP environment on IBM Cloud to scale and optimize supply chain operations with limited IT internal resources.

“An important part of building a better business, a smarter business, is choosing the right partner to leverage their expertise and take advantage of their experiences, their skills and their innovation to transform our own business,” says Peter Caldwell, IT Director at StarKist.

Discover how IBM Services was able to help manage StarKist’s SAP workloads, allowing StarKist to focus on strategic business priorities.

60% of IT leaders are currently partnering with or have plans to partner with a manage cloud services provider.¹
10.

Ensure that your network evolves to meet the needs of your cloud transformation

Delivering on customer expectations is virtually impossible with the limitations of traditional network technologies and architectures. With little tolerance for downtime, enterprise networks need to be always-on to support a hybrid multicloud environment.

To boost availability, legacy networks must transform to meet hybrid cloud requirements. They need to be reliable, flexible and scalable. They need to be secure. They need to have simplified management through virtualization and automation technologies.

Don’t let your network hold you back from your digital transformation with cloud.

Watch this webinar to see how network transformation supports hybrid cloud environments that are always on, helping businesses to innovate and gain a competitive edge.

36% of IT leaders say excessive cost of IT operations from the use of multiple tools, systems and processes is a primary challenge in managing their hybrid environment.¹
IBM helps clients manage traditional and cloud infrastructure, including applications and data, in a secure and consistent manner across hybrid environments. To learn more about IBM Services for Cloud Management:

Visit our website
Schedule a no-cost consultation