

8 best practices to optimize your IT to accelerate digital transformation





Overview

The move to cloud is fueled by organizations seeking to streamline IT operations, increase flexibility and reduce costs. And yet, the majority of this adoption is for new cloud-native and customer-facing applications.

Only 33% of today's workloads have migrated to the cloud, which means that 67% of all workloads—the majority of which are enterprise applications—are still running on legacy infrastructure.¹

Most organizations we polled plan to use multiple clouds within the next three years;² this new hybrid, multicloud reality poses new challenges for IT leaders as they contend with existing IT infrastructures. Many lack in-house IT skills to manage the complex multicloud environments.

Today's cloud migration continues in full force. To stay competitive, organizations must build new digital services and drive innovative business processes on secure, resilient, scalable, and open platforms across both public and private clouds. They need the right tools and skills to design, deploy, and manage complex multicloud environments across vendors and platforms.

But migrating business-critical enterprise apps demands that existing IT infrastructures and skillsets are managed alongside risk and cost controls. In short, successful cloud migrations require that both business objectives and the realities of legacy IT environments align.

1.

Define your objectives

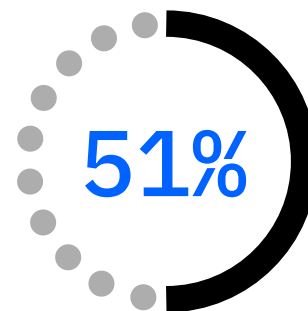
After deploying new applications and migrating customer-facing workloads to the cloud, many organizations are now facing challenges as they enter the second phase of their cloud migration: moving legacy applications.

Moving legacy workloads to the cloud can increase flexibility, control costs and better meet customer expectations.

It must be done with careful planning, minimal risk and maximum cost effectiveness.

See how Broadridge Financial, a firm that processes transactions that total trillions of dollars a day, worked with IBM to define their objectives and execute cloud migration in a controlled way. The result? Zero downtime, no business interruption, and a 30% enhancement to batch performance.²

[Read the case study](#) to learn more.



51% of IT leaders say maximizing availability and uptime was a primary reason to move to the cloud.³



2.

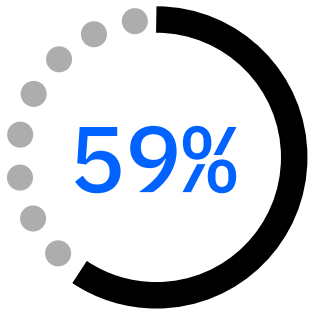
Understand and address cloud adoption hurdles

The move to the cloud is integral to virtually every digital and business transformation strategy. The cloud allows enterprises to innovate faster, scale more effectively, control costs, make better use of their data and offer better customer experiences. It also improves access to leading-edge technologies, such as artificial intelligence (AI), the Internet of Things (IoT) and blockchain.

Cloud adoption and migration can be complex and risky. Security and resiliency concerns, data sharing among clouds and a lack of in-house cloud deployment and management skills can give leaders pause.

Learn the risks (and how to avoid them) of moving enterprise applications from outdated legacy infrastructures to the cloud.

[Read the IBM thought leadership point of view: *The confident move to the cloud.*](#)



59% of IT leaders cite legacy systems as a challenge preventing them from migrating workloads to the cloud.¹



3.

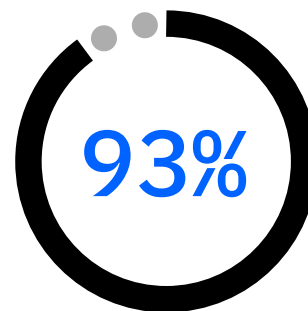
Develop a detailed roadmap for migrating enterprise workloads

More organizations than ever are moving workloads to the cloud. Yet many take a piecemeal approach rather than implement a coordinated strategy. SaaS and cloud-native apps were the first to be deployed on the cloud; enterprise apps are much more complex and take longer to migrate.

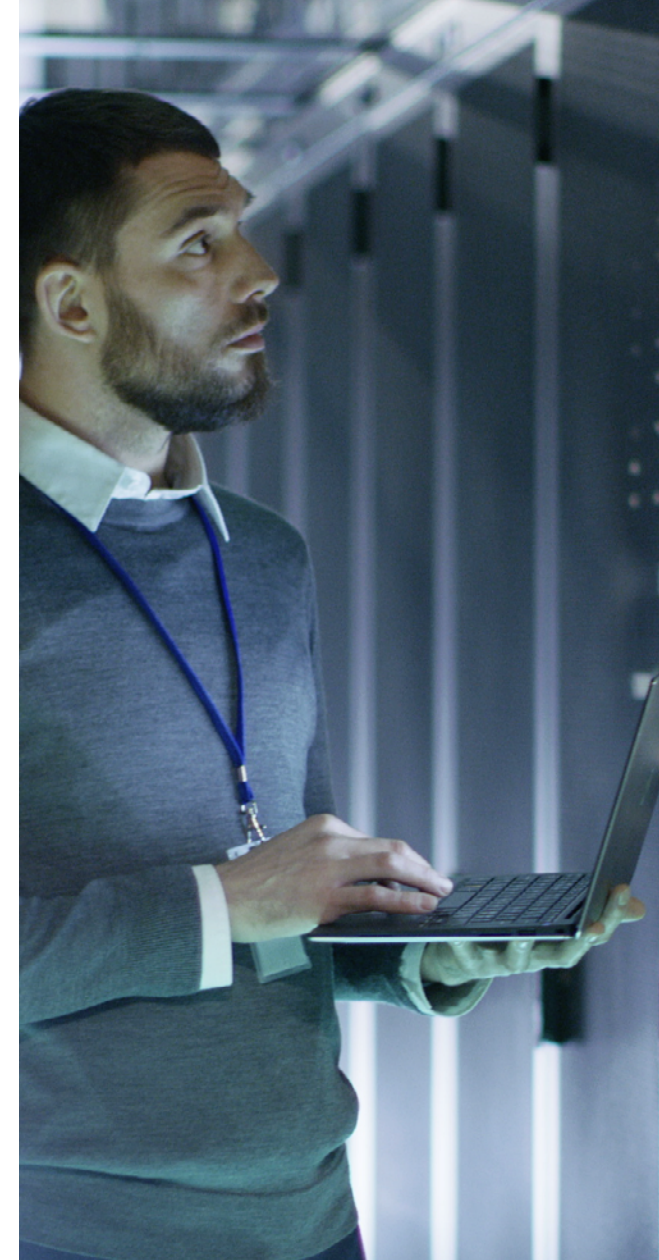
This is an issue that can quickly turn into a headache for IT leaders as they contend with deploying and managing multiple clouds running different workloads. Adding to their frustration is shadow IT—the internal use of public cloud applications and services without IT department knowledge or approval.

IBM has deep experience in cloud migration planning and execution. A well-planned and coordinated deployment accounts for the overall needs of an organization.

[Watch a video](#) on how to take control of your cloud migration.



93% of companies engage third-party experts for cloud migration.⁴



4.

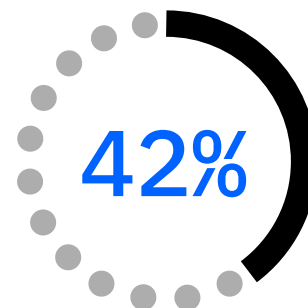
Avoid blind spots in your security and resiliency strategy

Security and resiliency models have drastically changed with the move to the cloud. Even organizations that understand how to deploy and manage cloud-based security standards can discover that legacy applications don't necessarily conform to those standards.

The growth of shadow IT, as well as the possible gap between what IT leaders think cyber security insurance offers vs. actual coverage, can result in serious consequences for IT departments that aren't adequately protected.

Forbes' Insight Global Survey examines the potential blind spots in enterprise security and resiliency.

[Access the Forbes Insight Global Survey - Perception Gaps in Cyber Resilience](#)



Only 42% of IT executives believe their organization could recover from a major cyberattack without major business impact.⁵



5.

Increase business agility through cloud migration

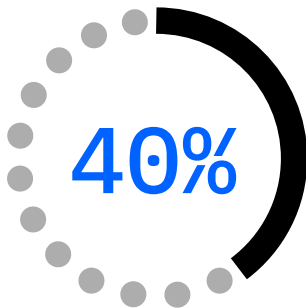
Cloud migration and application modernization used to be driven solely by cost and efficiency gains. Not anymore. Enterprise business goals have evolved. Now they include increasing business speed, agility, innovation, and true IT performance optimization.

To maximize the business value of your cloud architecture, IDC recommends that organizations frame their approach around three pillars:

- Define a strategy for success
- Work with a third party to avoid dangers and drive faster successes
- Plan calculated risks through an iterative and disciplined approach

IDC reports on the challenges many organizations with legacy IT and multicloud environments face. Learn how you can elevate business performance and harness the benefits a successful cloud strategy can offer.

[Read the IDC report.](#)



Organizations plan to increase their application portfolio size by 40% to enable business agility.⁵



6.

Unlock the value of your data with advanced technologies

Digital transformation starts with a strong foundation built on solid infrastructure and consolidated data.

Anthem, one of the leading US health benefit companies, developed a strong foundation for the cloud by migrating its legacy applications and creating a single view of its data.

To gain a competitive edge, they integrated automation and predictive analytics onto their systems. This allows them to realize operational efficiency and better insights for improving the health of their members—as well as find savings to reinvest in innovation.

[See the case study](#) to learn more.



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Over 1 million of Anthem Inc.'s customer issues are resolved with dynamic automation.²



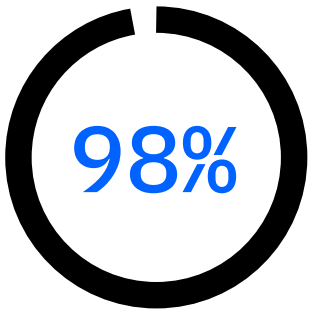
7.

Ensure your network meets your cloud transformation

A recent IBM Institute of Business Value study⁶ shows that 98% of all businesses plan to adopt multiple cloud architectures within the next three years.

These multicloud networks must always be available. To accomplish this, legacy networks must transform to meet hybrid cloud requirements. They need to be reliable, flexible and scalable. They need to be secure. They also need to have simplified management through virtualization and automation technologies.

[Register to watch a webinar](#) to learn how software-defined networks can simplify your legacy IT and transform it into an always-on hybrid-cloud next-generation network.



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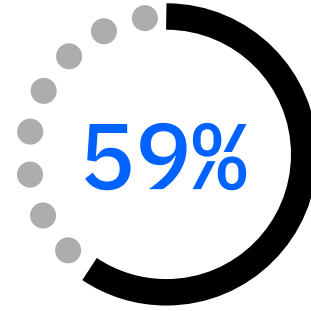
8.

Maximize cloud benefits through multicloud management

Managing workloads from different applications across a multicloud environment has many benefits, but also many challenges.

A recent IBM survey among IT leaders yielded some surprising results about how multicloud benefits early adopters, and the challenges that arise from adopting the strategy.

[See the infographic](#) that details how organizations that have integrated a multicloud strategy are realizing greater benefits than those that haven't.



59% of IT decision makers say that their organizations have already integrated cloud computing and storage from two or more vendors.⁷





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New Orchard Road
Armonk, NY 10504

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2. Video: [Broadridge Financial + IBM Services, Delivering scalability and resiliency in the cloud.](#)
3. [The confident move to the cloud. IBM Market Development & Insights, 2019](#)
4. Frost & Sullivan, “What you need to know about migrating to SAP S/4 HANA”, 2018
5. Forbes Insights: Perception Gaps in Cyber Resilience, 2018
6. [Assembling your cloud orchestra: A field guide to multicloud management, IBM Institute for Business Value, 2018](#)
7. IDG Research MarketPulse Research, Managing a Multi-Cloud Environment, May 2018