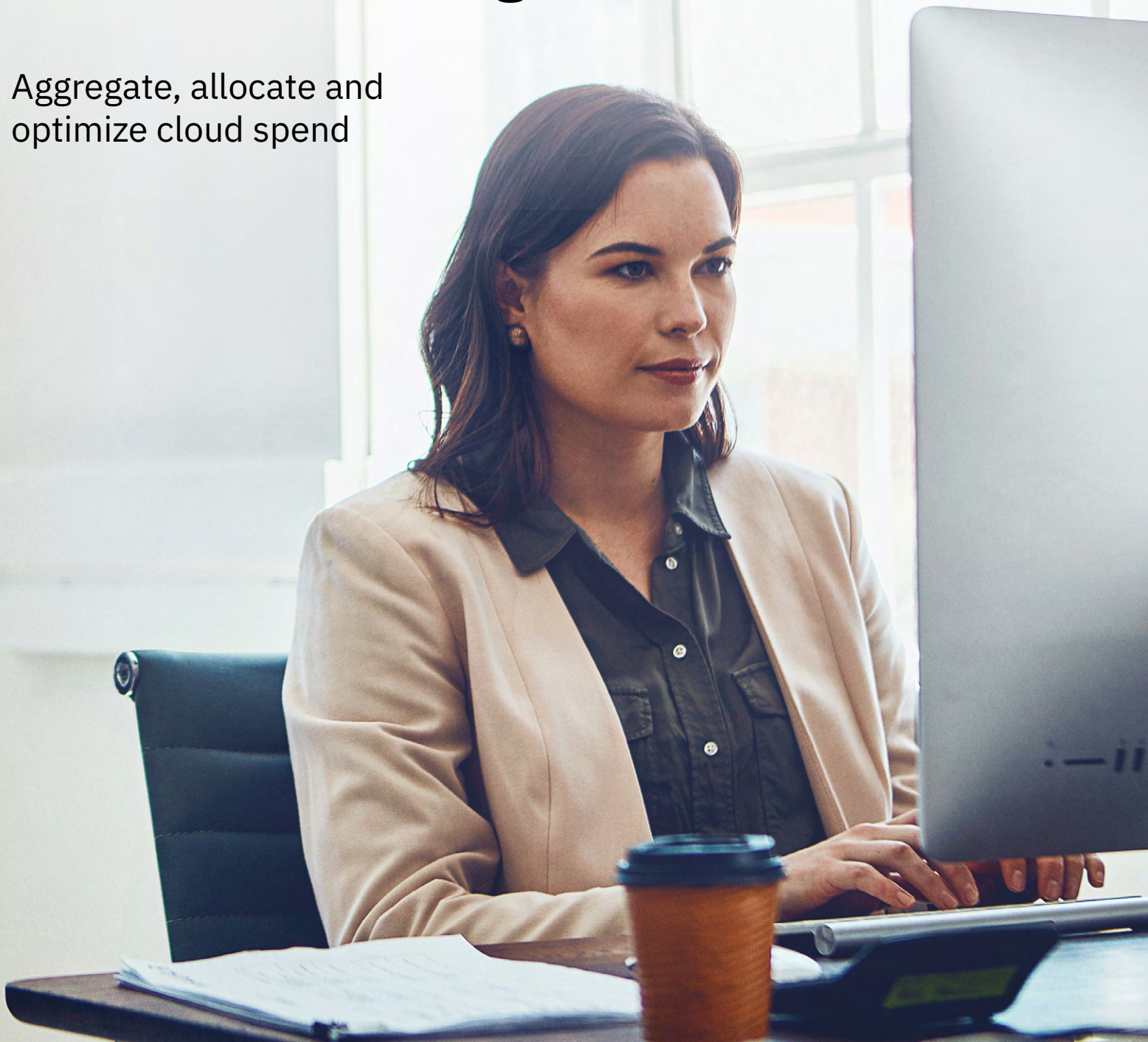




IBM Multicloud Management Platform: Governance console for IT financial management

Aggregate, allocate and
optimize cloud spend



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Summary

As organizations continue to migrate business workloads to hybrid IT environments, having better access and visibility to their services with greater control over their clouds is essential. For example, finance departments must be able to readily see spending activity and whether cloud activities are meeting budget and performance objectives. Their challenges? Managing complex hybrid IT environments across multiple clouds, systems, providers and processes is often a futile effort compounded by the inability to effectively monitor and manage end-to-end operations. And, many companies still use a traditional infrastructure that isn't open, isn't automated and can't be integrated with anything else—yet still must be managed.

Implementing scalable digital transformation requires federated IT. The result is a cloud operating model that can provide your team access to services and information from all sources and partners—quickly. Having better visibility across your entire IT environment can help reduce complexity and risk, including shadow IT and vendor lock-in. And, you gain control over cloud cost, usage and performance of IT operations. But how do you create continuous governance across pipelines? The answer is IBM® Multicloud Management Platform (MCMP)—a suite of applications that provides a continuum of governance across your hybrid IT ecosystem.

Engage a digital, self-service and smart IT management platform that scales with your business

The IBM MCMP Operations console empowers your team with one-application access to your entire digital scope. This self-service operations platform facilitates effective cloud consumption governance and closer alignment with your business priorities, while strengthening operational efficiencies.

The IBM MCMP Operations console uses a single interface to provide much needed visibility across data centers, multicloud and container operations, augmenting human intelligence by automatically discovering and correlating events, and recommending corrective actions. Over time, these machine learning capabilities create AI models that help operations teams understand where issues are developing, enabling proactive resolution.

Establish a financial governance framework for control of your cloud usage and spend

The MCMP governance model is a synergistic grouping of applications and capabilities for IT financial management. Together, they infuse continuous governance up, down and across the technology stack, at all phases of development. Your IT leaders get the tools they need to establish policy-based governance rules around cloud usage and spend, resulting in a consolidated view that can include costs, trends, budget tracking, policy compliance and more.

The core of the IBM MCMP governance model: Cost and asset management

The cost and asset management application is integral to the MCMP governance model with one primary purpose: to help companies manage the complexity of cloud financial management.

Built as part of cognitive IT governance, cost and asset management uses built-in predictive analytics to monitor and govern your cloud environment for optimum financial management of your multiclouds.

Key benefits:



Visibility across systems and providers increases your ability to understand where to take action. This visibility enables better decision-making about spend and cost management derived from data-driven insights.



Faster time to realized value based on actual cloud usage and spend can result in better monitoring and optimization of your cloud environment, overall cost reduction and less manual intervention.



Improved availability and faster time to issue resolution increases operational efficiency and cost savings.



Capabilities

Maximize your management capabilities through cloud governance

The MCMP cloud governance tool puts you in the driver's seat with control of your cloud infrastructure through the console's dashboard—your automated work and information station. Using an AI and machine learning (ML)-driven model gives you full asset portfolio visibility for tracking cloud spend and consumption management. You have the ability to quickly identify underutilized assets and determine an action plan to maximize your return on investments.

The self-service governance platform streamlines consumption, as finance and IT teams need only one system of reference for multicloud governance. The result is effective and efficient cloud usage that aligns more closely with business priorities, while strengthening operational efficiencies. You're able to manage and view all hybrid and multicloud costs and assets through this single information hub.

Establish multicloud cost management

IBM cost and asset management delivers financial governance of cloud environments, providing you with aggregated and detailed visibility into all cloud usage and spend. And it does so completely and nearly continuously, letting your team focus less on gathering and understanding data and more on making the most of your IT budget.

Control your costs as you manage consumption

The MCMP governance tool aggregates the data that comes from providers and displays cost utilization charting and information on the dashboard. You can see usage trends, uncover inefficiencies and recommend policy-based governance. Additionally, you'll get recommendations for spending and usage optimization derived from the data. Getting actionable insights from individual providers and insights derived from aggregated provider data is key. The IBM MCMP differentiator enables you to perform this governance and yield valuable insights on your own in-house proprietary AI and ML models.

Implement more strategic budget planning

Finance managers are able to sort and categorize assets across licenses, using filters and different settings to create custom tagging for better monitoring and control—making it much easier to manage resources over multiple clouds. Having governance over your budget helps you pinpoint where to optimize use and spend, with aggregated data generated and consolidated through automated analytic reporting.

Manage provider subscriptions

Chargeback reports are available through the automated dashboard, representing data that was once compiled through labor-intensive manual processes. Manual tasks, such as gathering monthly spreadsheets from providers, assigning charges to correct business units, amassing the invoices and crunching the numbers, took weeks to complete. Now they're all done through smart automation in just hours, essentially continuous, with aggregated data updated nightly and available through the dashboard.

Customer success story

BRF

Business challenge

BRF is one of the world's largest fully integrated agro-food companies. The team needed a solution for bringing the complexity of their hybrid multicloud under control. Managing multiple private and public clouds coming together as a single system was the main challenge. They needed a consolidated view of all cloud assets.

Transformation

IBM helped BRF develop an effective cloud management strategy, with an implementation plan that gives BRF ongoing visibility into its cloud assets with current and projected costs. The addition of AI into the IT operational mix aggregates and correlates the needed information, displaying the health of the entire hybrid IT estate through a single pane of glass—the IBM MCMP governance console.

MCMP allows BRF to manage and see all its public and private cloud costs and assets in an automated fashion within a single consolidated dashboard. After a year, BRF added 20,000 cloud assets into the tool. It also reduced lead time for running financial reports by 98%, from eight hours to eight minutes.¹

[Learn more and watch the client video →](#)

Use cases

1

Optimize your cloud costs and usage

Problem: With large, multicloud estates, it's difficult to detect costly inefficiencies from unused or over-provisioned resources.

Solution: Usage and costs across multiple cloud providers are analyzed using AI and ML to identify both idle and over-stretched resources. Actionable insights are provided, shown in a single interface.

Business benefit: Cloud cost and usage are optimized to help ensure efficient consumption of cloud resources.

2

Gain better control of your cloud budget

Problem: Costs from cloud providers aren't allocated by budget owners.

Solution: Using MCMP for financial management, costs from multiple providers are aggregated in a single interface. The users have the ability to dynamically group costs by budget owner for accurate chargeback and showback reports based on actual consumption.

Business benefit: Timely chargeback and showback reports allow budget owners to manage costs.



3

Manage your cloud consumption within budget

Problem: Budget owners don't realize when costs are exceeding budgets.

Solution: With MCMP, costs from multiple cloud providers are aggregated and can be compared to established budgets every day. With automatic notification when actual costs approach the budget limits, budget owners can manage consumption to remain within budget.

Business benefit: Proactive budget notifications allow effective and timely consumption management.

Why IBM?

IBM MCMP is a guiding principle of IT federation—of user experience, orchestration and operations. Its architecture is open, modular, loosely coupled, API-enabled and uses open source software. Based on a DevOps culture, the platform provides continuous integration and continuous delivery (CI/CD), as well as innovation and enhancement on a continuous basis. Data science is integrated throughout the service while our applied design thinking methodology continuously refines and extends the scope and capability based on user and market needs. Delivered as a managed service, our IBM team takes a technology focus while your team can focus on applying the functionality to drive meaningful business results.

To learn more about how the IBM Multicloud Management Platform for governance can provide visibility, governance and automation to your hybrid IT environment, contact your IBM representative. You can also schedule a no-cost consultation with an IBM expert to discuss your particular needs.

Learn more →



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Citations

1 BRF: Boosting business agility to support global growth and ensure regulatory compliance, *IBM case study*, January 2019

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