Hybrid cloud benefits for governments

The term hybrid cloud refers to a combination of a private and public cloud services with one or more points of integration between the two. Private and hybrid clouds have great potential for government agencies with benefits in a number of key areas.
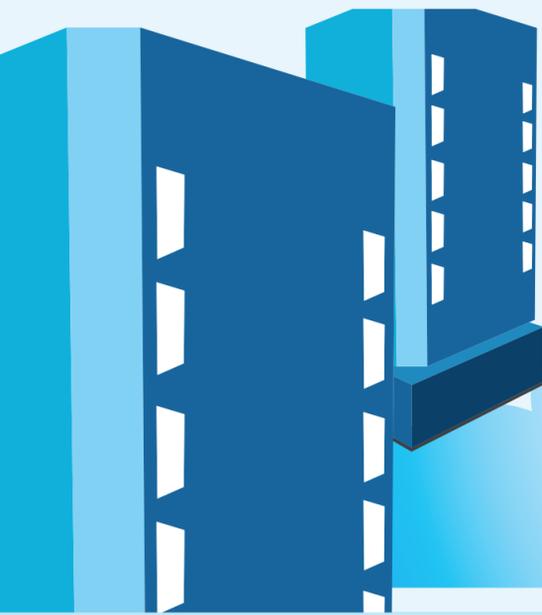
Building a bridge to the future

To enable continuity from present IT environments, government organizations can use hybrid cloud for a gradual, phased approach to cloud computing.
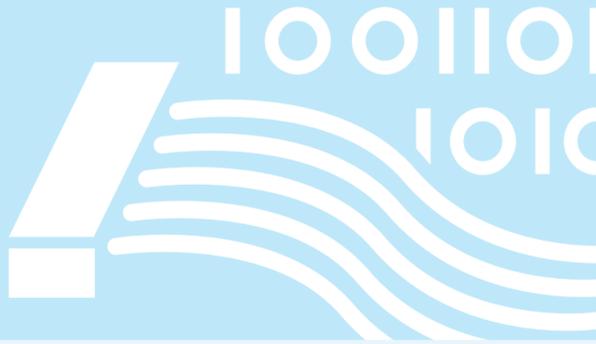
Example:
Working with IBM, the State of Ohio is consolidating and modernizing its departmental data centers into the State of Ohio Computing Center, which will house thousands of applications. The center is augmented with a shared private cloud that costs the state less than its current infrastructure.[1]

Complying with data residency requirements

With increasing regulations regarding data residency, hybrid cloud options provide flexibility for governments as they address privacy, compliance and security concerns.

Safeguarding against evolving threats

Because of concerns over cloud security, few public agencies or governments use public clouds for critical or sensitive systems and rely on traditional data centers or private clouds. Hybrid cloud options allow government agencies to deploy different delivery models based on data sensitivity and security concerns.
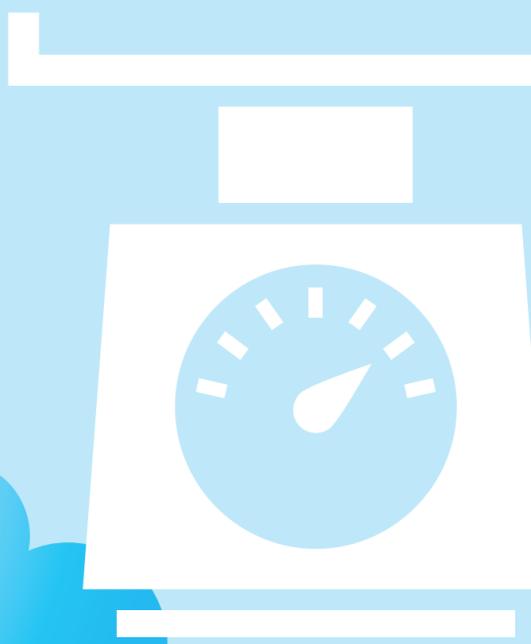
Gaining balance

Hybrid cloud offers the possibility of pooling existing infrastructures into a shared cloud delivery system, so multiple public agencies can access, share and collaborate. In this way, governments can more easily balance standardization with agency-specific autonomy.

Example:
A state in the western US built a cloud and shared services infrastructure that improves service delivery quality and speed by removing policy and bureaucratic barriers to capital procurements.

Innovating services

Hybrid cloud can help governments in their quest to build and provide government-as-a-platform services.

Example:
A branch of the US military is using hybrid cloud to innovate shared services across organizations, such as logistic systems which provides on-time integrated logistics support of military operations worldwide. The system processes 40 million unique data transactions every day.
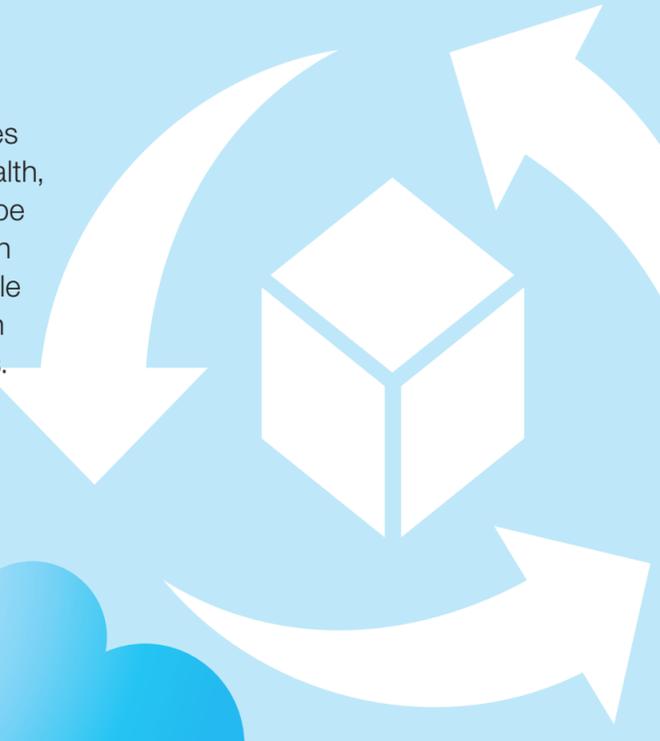
Delivering new engagement models

Hybrid cloud can help government agencies collaborate on difficult problems in public health, social services and child welfare that can't be solved by a single agency. Many issues can be more effectively addressed when multiple agencies collaborate to create data-driven insights for common, yet critical, problems.

Example:
In a US state, a Municipal Services Cloud provides new methods of engagement for city inspectors, developers, and police with a consistent view of data across the state's many municipalities.

Choice and flexibility

Hybrid cloud approaches enable government organizations to better collaborate, streamline infrastructure and integrate services across departments and agencies. Hybrid cloud can help improve efficiency, manage compliance and enhance service delivery.

Learn more about why more governments are interested in hybrid cloud in the IBM white paper **"Hybrid cloud in government: Capitalizing on continuity."**

1. http://www.govtech.com/videos/Ohio-Speeds-App-Creation-with-the-Cloud.html

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