

IBM Cloud



Manage IT

Orchestrate and simplify multicloud

Forty-nine percent of enterprises drive innovation by deploying multiple clouds.¹ Multicloud environments are essential for developing enhanced products and services in today's digital era. How can you simplify IT management in a hybrid multicloud world?



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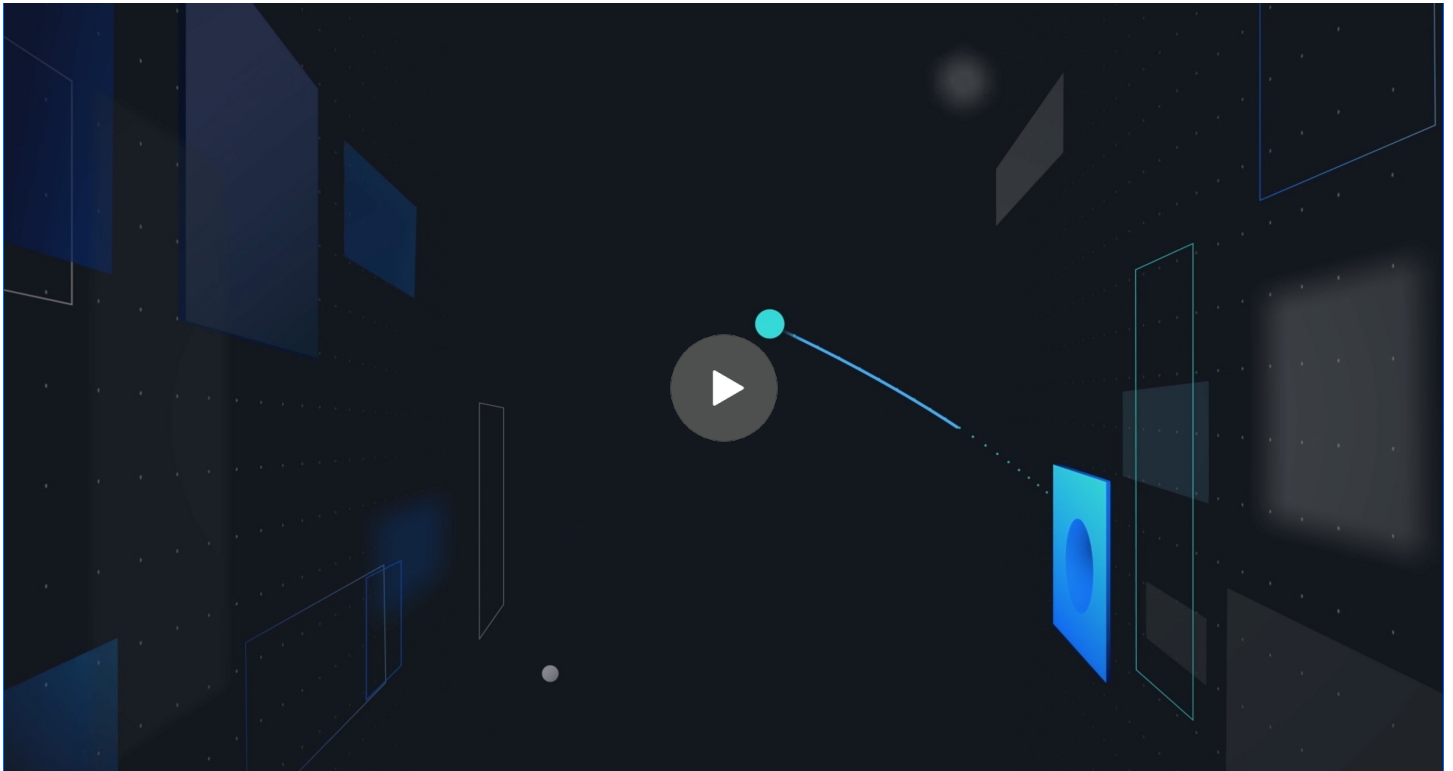
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How to effectively manage multicloud

Today, your IT department is tasked with accomplishing more in an environment that is expanding in complexity and scale. Your IT infrastructure can be on premises, in the cloud or on a hybrid platform that integrates both. Most likely, though, you're working across multiple clouds from multiple vendors, as 71 percent of enterprises are now using three or more clouds.²

Effective IT management means monitoring all of your organization's information technology systems. Optimizing and simplifying hybrid multicloud environments has become the key to enterprise agility, but working across multiple clouds – from multiple vendors – can pose distinct challenges.

Cloud technologies from different vendors come with their own operational and management tools, so you're likely facing increased complexity and cost. New IT management and multicloud solutions can help optimize performance and access; control costs; and secure your mix of applications, environments, and data; whether they are inside your data center or in the cloud.

Managing multicloud: A core factor in managing IT

A multicloud environment is simply the reality for a vast majority of IT organizations.

While 98 percent of organizations surveyed by the IBM® Institute for Business Value (IBV) plan to operate in a multicloud environment within three years, fewer than half of those have dedicated multicloud processes in place.³

What's more, many businesses are using more cloud services than they had intended. Almost 60 percent of organizations reported that independent business units within their organizations had ended up accumulating multiple clouds – creating an unwieldy, de facto multicloud environment.⁴

Companies with multicloud services are outperforming their peers, achieving the key objectives that led them to the cloud services model in the first place: an overall reduction in IT costs, improved operational speed and agility, and better IT and business alignment.⁵

As a result, a hybrid multicloud approach will be a non-negotiable for the vast majority of enterprises in the future, and for good reason: enterprises that have deployed multicloud management are 67 percent more profitable than those that lag behind.⁶

Until you orchestrate your multiple clouds, these disparate, disconnected environments will prove to be more of a liability than an asset.

How do you ensure that your cloud environments remain an asset? How do you join the ranks of enterprises that are profiting from multicloud deployment? By developing sound strategies and relying on robust tools, your enterprise can integrate all of your environments in a single view, in addition to:



Increasing your time to value for innovation



Streamlining the management of your IT environments



Integrating and managing across platforms and providers



Increasing security, compliance and resilience of your IT environment



Differentiating by leveraging AI & data

An all-in-one multicloud management solution can reduce management costs, provide a choice in environments, increase governance, and deploy applications based on the needs of workloads – all from a single dashboard.

[Assembling your cloud orchestra →](#)

How to manage multiple clouds

Scattered workloads. Security gaps. Limited visibility. Although the benefits of a multicloud strategy as part of a larger IT strategy are clear, managing multiple clouds does introduce complexities. These require additional strategies to optimize performance, control costs, and secure a complicated mix of applications.

In a multicloud environment, enterprises need a layer of automated management so that their business can scale with the expansion of services. To meet the key drivers for cloud adoption – cost optimization, speed of innovation, and future-proofing – you need a management platform that includes specific functionality and the capability to integrate easily with a range of other enterprise management systems, both inside and outside IT operations.

[Top 10 practices for multicloud →](#)

Three critical capabilities of a multicloud solution

Steering your business in the right direction, and mitigating the inherent challenges of multicloud management, requires a sound strategy and the right multicloud management solution.

An agile, multicloud integration architecture with these capabilities is essential for successful IT management:

1. Visibility

It's critical to know where business application components are running. You have to monitor the health of resources (such as deployments, pods, Helm releases) across Kubernetes environments, whether they're in public or private clouds, and in the appropriate business context.

2. Governance

As cloud-native environments proliferate across the enterprise, DevOps teams are tasked with ensuring that these environments are managed according to the enterprise's governance and security policies. A single dashboard can provide you with the consistent set of configuration and security policies you need to manage an increasing number of cloud-native components.

3. Automation

Whether an application is cloud-native or traditional, it's crucial to efficiently manage and deliver services through end-to-end automation while enabling developers to build applications aligned with enterprise policies. Just as important is a consistent and flexible way to deploy applications across environments, including backup and disaster recovery options and the ability to move workloads. You'll also need the ability to provision, configure, and deliver individual Kubernetes clusters as a service in any cloud.

Effective IT management requires integration across your enterprise, and the right multicloud solution gives you a clear view of your apps, built-in support for your compliance management, and the simplicity and intelligence of automation.



Manage hybrid IT with IBM Services for Multicloud Management

Multicloud management: How IBM can help

Using automation and open-source tools and technologies, IBM offers a cohesive approach to traditional IT management, enterprise applications, and hybrid multicloud deployments. This approach can help improve business resilience as well as security and compliance management.

Bringing together cloud and service management capabilities across the enterprise, the IBM multicloud management platform provides a single management experience, enabling you to consume, orchestrate, and govern multiple clouds – all in a collaborative, self-service IT environment.

Within the IBM multicloud management platform, IBM Multicloud Manager empowers you with oversight of multiple Kubernetes clusters wherever they are – on the public or private cloud – with built-in security and compliance, in addition to:



A single user experience to manage the multicloud landscape



Continuous change management, keeping your enterprise in sync with your larger cloud ecosystem



An open framework to avoid cloud provider lock-in

Now, this capability is also available with the IBM Cloud Pak™ for Multicloud Management, running on Red Hat OpenShift. It's an enterprise-ready, containerized software solution that provides you with an open, faster, and more secure way to move your core business applications to any cloud.

[IBM Cloud Pak for Multicloud Management →](#)

Conclusion

While your organization may already use multiple cloud services, does it have the right forward-facing strategy to fully unleash the power of your cloud? Is your strategy accelerating innovation and providing the visibility, governance and automation capabilities that are fundamental to the success of your IT operations?

With IBM's multicloud solutions, you can facilitate, orchestrate, and optimize your multiple cloud environments from on-premises to the edge, and optimize cost while increasing your business advantage. See how intelligent operations, application and multicloud management solutions can boost agility and flexibility.

Additional resources



Learn more about Red Hat

Reduce IT spend and drive innovation. →



Top 10 best practices for multicloud management

The new multicloud world is changing the face of IT. →



Manage your multicloud architecture

Learn how to manage clouds with consistency. →



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- 1 IBM Institute for Business Value Report. Assembling your cloud orchestra. 2018.
- 2 Metcalfe, David. Cloud computing news blog: The multicloud era is here. Is your team ready? February 2018.
- 3–5 Gower, Andy. How to make the most of multiple clouds. Cloud Computing News. February 2019.
- 6 IBM Services. Orchestrate and simplify IT management. 2019.

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