

Multi-cloud: the gateway to digital transformation success

Technology is driving business change at a breathtaking pace, and the demands of end users - employees and customers - are continuing to rise.

However, adapting to this digitally focused world presents **significant challenges** for businesses, and organizations are now under increasing pressure to **operate in real-time**, ensure their **business and mission-critical data is safe** while finding new ways to **reduce operational IT costs**. Innovation is therefore critical, with the **cloud** becoming a **key agent for digital transformation**. As 'Cloud-first' strategies (an approach where a cloud solution is considered or prioritized for all workload deployments) become the new norm (nearly 44% of all those surveyed were selectively targeting new applications for cloud computing) enterprises are finding that they can **build faster** and **run better** at a lower cost.'

With the time left for enterprises to catch up with more agile competitors becoming shorter and shorter a key driver to the adoption of cloud is **speed**: the speed to **build applications** and get **products** and **services in to the hands of users faster**. Customers and employees are now demanding more convenient digital experiences and there is an **unprecedented pressure on IT** to deliver applications and services at scale which our research found to be a top three driver to cloud adoption. The research also found that **security** continues to be a concern, and almost half (48%) of enterprises moving applications into the private cloud, do so for security and **control** reasons.

» An increasingly multi-cloud world

With about 70% of enterprises using multiple clouds to meet different enterprise requirements, early adopters of the cloud seem to have a more mature understanding of the technology's transformational capabilities and are using different cloud environments to meet different needs - what we call a **multi-cloud** approach. And in an increasingly multi-cloud world, **where** you run your workloads and **when** is a critical decision. As circumstances change - due to cost, security, compliance, or performance - these workloads require a platform that offers **flexibility** and **ease of migration** across hybrid, private and public clouds, datacentres and devices.

» Maintaining choice and control

What makes a multi-cloud approach right for digital transformation is **choice**. By allowing businesses to use the **infrastructure that suits them** - whether it is public, private or hybrid cloud, a co-located hosting service, or even a server in a backroom - a multi-cloud strategy ensures that workloads are placed in the environment that is **best for a business** now, and in the future.

Success for cloud service providers will, therefore, depend on their services also being **destinations** - not only for new application deployments, but for existing applications or parts of them. The deployment opportunity is an equal measure of **new applications, modernization of existing applications** (as-a-service), and migration or re-platforming of existing applications. Each will have somewhat different infrastructure requirements. Companies are looking for the solution that gives them the **'gateway to all clouds'** to meet these varying needs. By giving them the **freedom** and **choice** to innovate and compete, cloud technology succeeds in cutting organization's operational costs while allowing them to re-invest and divert funds into new digital initiatives.

This executive summary was adapted from 451 Research's Cloud Trends & Expectations study

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