

AS-A-SERVICE FOR A CONSISTENT HYBRID CLOUD: THE NEXT BIG THING IN HYBRID CLOUD COMPUTING

The hybrid cloud plays a critical role in driving digital transformation that powers sustainable business growth—particularly as organizations prioritize flexibility and simplicity in an uncertain business environment. And while most businesses have adopted a hybrid cloud strategy, many still struggle to pull max value from it, grappling with issues over security, complexity, cost containment, and more—many of the reasons they moved to a hybrid cloud model in the first place. So, where’s the disconnect? Why are some businesses thriving in their hybrid cloud while others are left floundering? It comes down to the approach and establishing a consistent hybrid cloud.

As businesses embrace digital transformation to meet the emerging needs of customers in a world that’s seeing profound innovation amid uncertainty, a hybrid cloud infrastructure is becoming a way of life—particularly as edge computing continues to pick up steam. The COVID-19 pandemic changed the way enterprises run their business, as

most were forced to support a remote workplace and virtual collaboration, while remaining agile enough to ensure business continuity. According to Forrester, 41% of purchase influencers at U.S. enterprises who are prioritizing cloud adoption at their organizations noted an increased importance of cloud due to the pandemic.¹

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More than two years later, the business community continues to grapple with economic uncertainty, as market conditions fluctuate, and inflation takes center stage. As a result, the hybrid cloud is quickly becoming the go-to operating model for many IT organizations. However, despite its profound advancements and growing adoption, many businesses struggle to adequately leverage the hybrid cloud model in a way that delivers on its promise. This white paper discusses the state of the hybrid cloud, the most common barriers to entry, and how a consistent hybrid cloud powers success.

HYBRID CLOUD IS HERE TO STAY

The hybrid cloud offers a range of technologies that allow businesses to access workloads from any device, no matter where it resides. It is a proven enabler of digital transformation and a crucial driver of growth, as businesses strive to deliver engaging and meaningful customer experiences in a rapidly changing digital economy.

According to 451 Research’s Voice of the Enterprise: Cloud, Hosting & Managed Services, Vendor Evaluations 2020 survey, the hybrid cloud has been shown to:

- ▶ Deliver cost optimization across on-premises and public cloud resources
- ▶ Extend the IT capacity of on-premises infrastructure without capital expense
- ▶ Support backup and disaster recovery for improved business continuity
- ▶ Bring disparate IT environments together
- ▶ Enable workload migration among different environments as needed
- ▶ Allow workload components to operate in different environments
- ▶ Offer a centralized data repository for applications and business processes running in different IT environments
- ▶ Support compatible IT environments for all stages of app development lifecycle²

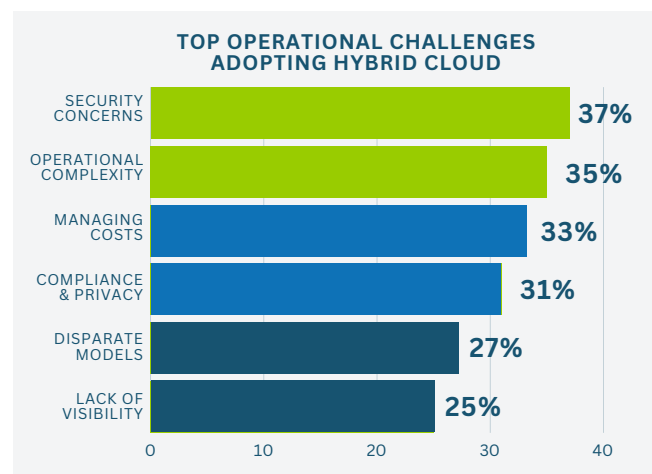
A mixed computing, storage, and services environment across clouds, the hybrid cloud offers the benefits of both public and private clouds, while allowing applications and workloads to interoperate across boundaries. “Hybrid cloud is a game changer from an organizational and a development perspective,” says AIOPs expert Matt Hogstrom. “It effectively allows system architects to place services anywhere rather than forcing them to work just in a single environment.

This creates the ability to disaggregate services and deliver better solutions than they could get in a single autonomous package.”³

SO, WHAT’S THE PROBLEM?

Serving as an extension of the traditional cloud architecture with the ability to blend infrastructure on demand, the hybrid cloud solves many of the core limitations of conventional cloud computing. But despite its vast benefits, many enterprises struggle to adequately implement a hybrid cloud strategy.

According to Tech Republic’s 2022 Global Hybrid Cloud Trends Report of 2,500 IT leaders, 82% of businesses have adopted the hybrid cloud.⁴ However, among those that have made the shift, many struggle to make sense of their disparate cloud environments, overwhelmed by the separate tool sets, providers, and skillsets required for each cloud platform. Some of the most common challenges, according to technical architect and software expert Kaushik Pal, include complex implementation, security issues, network latency, and hybrid cloud management.⁵ In fact, findings from the same Global Hybrid Cloud Trends Report revealed that 37% consider security a primary challenge in the deployment of multiple clouds, while 35% struggle with operational complexities.⁶



While the hybrid cloud has limitless potential in enabling digital transformation and growth, it also has the power to impede business success if it is operating on multiple, incompatible infrastructure platforms. “The challenge of operating in disparate cloud environments,” as outlined in a Moor Insights & Strategy report, “is that it easily fragments into separate tool sets for each cloud platform, particularly in the extreme between public clouds.”⁷ This leads to siloed cloud use, which makes it difficult

for IT teams to achieve consistency in service levels, policy enforcement, security, compliance, cost containment, and more.

Why are some businesses seeing profound, measurable results from their hybrid cloud model while others have yet to reap the benefits? The answer lies in a consistent hybrid cloud—one that uses a common set of unified management tools across the entire hybrid cloud environment.

AS-A-SERVICE MODEL POWERS A CONSISTENT HYBRID CLOUD

Making the decision to move to the hybrid cloud is only one piece of the puzzle. To reap the benefits of a hybrid cloud model, businesses need to adopt an approach to the hybrid cloud that enables a consistent, simplified, and secure operational experience across the multi-clouds.

Enter: as-a-Service.

The as-a-Service model is nothing new. Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) came onto the scene in the late 90s and exploded into ubiquity in the years that followed. Today, as-a-service has grown to include Platform-as-a-Service (PaaS) and Infrastructure-as-a-

Service (IaaS). Together, the three as-a-Service models offer a viable solution to this problem, combining compute, storage, and networking in one unified (uncomplicated) approach.

However, according to a recent ESG survey, only 5% of hybrid cloud adopters are using consolidated cloud management tools to power their hybrid cloud.⁸ This means that as many as 95% of hybrid cloud adopters are not pulling max value from their hybrid cloud infrastructure.

Consistent and secure operations across the entire hybrid cloud environment—from the data center to a co-location facility to edge locations to the public cloud—has been shown to deliver the following business benefits:

Cost savings with pay-as-you-go flexibility

With consumption-based pricing that spans the entire hybrid cloud environment—not just in the public cloud—hybrid cloud-as-a-service enables IT organizations to adopt an entirely Opex model while maintaining control over workloads. Increased cloud management consistency, according to ESG research, drives down overall costs by an average of 19%.⁹

Greater flexibility

By delivering a more streamlined experience across the multi-cloud, multi-edge, and multi-data center IT landscape, a consistent hybrid cloud powered by an as-a-service approach offers greater flexibility to choose where specific workloads will work best and seamlessly move them to better support strategic objectives. Respondents from the same ESG survey said that more infrastructure management consistency across clouds would reduce the time it takes to move workloads by 35%.¹⁰

Improved security

By consolidating the management of cloud instances to a single interface to support a consistent hybrid cloud, IT administrators have greater visibility into blind spots and increased security control over the entire hybrid cloud environment. Research by IDC revealed that most businesses with a consistent hybrid cloud achieved an average improvement of 13% in security and risk reduction.¹¹

Increased time-to-market

Offering the ability to scale on demand, swiftly deploy infrastructure without costly capital expenditures, and quickly respond to changing business demands, a consistent hybrid cloud paves a path of least resistance to speed innovation and execution. The median enterprise in IDC's survey reported a 15% or more reduction in time to market as a result of investments in a consistent hybrid cloud.¹²

A consistent hybrid cloud brings together a robust suite of capabilities that can lower total cost of ownership, boost operational efficiency, and speed application deployment cycles—without incremental training or fragmentation of IT infrastructure assets and operations.¹³ Powered by an as-a-service approach, the consistent hybrid cloud allows businesses to simplify the IT experience and rapidly respond to changing business needs, all while maintaining control of their cloud strategy.

and confusion. An as-a-service approach to the hybrid cloud offers a consistent, simplified experience that paves a transformative path forward for businesses.

As cloud technology continues to evolve to make interconnectivity between platforms easier for organizations, solutions like Dell Apex Hybrid Cloud that offer one common management framework, security, and workload mobility across multiple clouds help businesses achieve consistent and secure operations across environments.

TIME TO TRANSFORM

The hybrid cloud is only as effective as the approach that governs its use. A hybrid cloud model has the power to transform a business, drive notable cost savings, boost efficiencies, improve operations, and much more. It also has the power to cause disruption

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3 <https://www.cio.com/article/403225/the-future-of-the-hybrid-cloud.html>

4, 6 <https://www.techrepublic.com/article/report-82-of-it-leaders-are-adopting-the-hybrid-cloud/>

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Melillo Consulting is a technology solution provider that helps organizations power their business through technology. With a full range of complete IT solutions that address customers' on-premises, hybrid, and cloud needs, Melillo offers advanced expertise in infrastructure, development, security, and data management. Backed by a team of seasoned IT solution architects, expert delivery consultants, and project management pros, Melillo offers an unsurpassed level of expertise that positions customers for success. Contact Melillo to discuss your approach to the hybrid cloud at getinfo@mjm.com.