Four Tenets to Guide Your Enterprise's Cloud Transformation

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Common multi-cloud challenges

Y/N Our multi-cloud environment has the potential to or has already become multiple cloud silos.

Y/N We lack the skills around developing and managing modern applications.

Y/N Managing performance, cost and compliance across multiple clouds is complex.

Y/N We are at risk of rising costs across cloud services.

Y/N We worry about security gaps in our IT environment—across multiple clouds and apps.

Y/N Our multi-cloud operations are disjointed, and we might have difficulty protecting business continuity during migration or in the event of a failure.

If you answered "yes" to any statement, successful multi-cloud leaders offer the following guidance.

Company leaders are widely recognizing multi-cloud as the dominant operating model. Balancing the need to deliver new cloud native apps while modernizing legacy applications for the future are among the top factors contributing to organizations leaning into multi-cloud environments consisting of private, public and hybrid clouds as well as SaaS and cloud native services.

Nearly three-quarters (73 percent) of enterprise technology decision-makers report that they are standardizing on multi-cloud foundations to deliver applications and infrastructure.[1] This approach allows for systems and software that better meet growing customer and employee experience demands and offer important capabilities, such as high-performance computing, artificial intelligence and modern apps.

But the move to multi-cloud isn't without its challenges. Existing infrastructure can be inflexible, and operations are inconsistent. Companies and CIOs focused on journeying to multi-cloud and modern app architectures also have to navigate new cost and operational considerations.

Change is easier when teams and individuals understand what leaders expect. Through our work with thousands of enterprise IT leaders globally who have successfully navigated cloud transformation, VMware recommends four tenets to operationalize your multi-cloud environment. If you're an infrastructure and operations (I&O) leader, these four tenets can help you develop and implement a successful multi-cloud strategy.

1. Standardize to optimize

With each cloud environment operating in essentially its own silo, it is difficult—if not impossible—to have visibility into the performance, cost, security and state of compliance for all your enterprise applications. But end-to-end visibility is exactly what businesses need to speed the development and deployment of new apps and services to meet customer and employee expectations. That is likely why 91 percent of executives are looking to "improve consistency across [their] public cloud environments."[2]

The best approach is to pursue a cloud-smart strategy that lets you add more clouds and cloud services without adding complexity and risk. A good starting point is standardizing infrastructure based on a validated architecture that unifies your compute, network and storage environments across multiple clouds, traditional applications and cloud native applications. With a consistent infrastructure, you can move data center workloads to a hybrid cloud, move native cloud workloads to a data center or the edge, natively manage apps and workloads in multiple public clouds, or develop and deploy new container-based apps on Kubernetes.

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1. VMware Digital Momentum Study: N=557 Enterprise (5000+ employee) Technology Decision-Makers, July 2021.

2. VMware FY22 Q3 Executive Pulse.

2. Simplify to improve agility

Not only are workload environments increasingly dynamic, but they are also increasingly complex. Without alignment between security, IT and DevOps teams, organizations overspend and raise risk profiles.

Businesses successfully navigating multi-cloud simplify infrastructure, operations and app delivery with these strategies:

• **Invest in automation** – Automated processes drive consistency while freeing up staff resources and speeding operations, including workload provisioning, service catalog management, service showback and chargeback, and service-level agreement and configuration management.

• **Enable self-service** – Defined and standardized infrastructure and services specific to technical or business requirements—whether infrastructure, platform, container or anything as a service—and access to them through a self-service portal empowers developers and speeds innovation.

• **Streamline security** – Decreasing the number of point security products in favor of solutions delivering shared visibility with functionality for different roles reduces friction and finger-pointing between security and infrastructure teams.

• **Reduce downtime** – Cloud-based disaster recovery ensures rapid return to business for continuity and resilience.

With the greater alignment that comes from simplifying environments, organizations can drive business agility and expansion.

3. Prioritize DevEx to innovate faster

Over 90 percent of CXOs plan to pursue app modernization over the next 6 months.[3] In part, I&O leaders are responsible for this goal because developers depend on I&O teams for the infrastructure, software and services needed to create and run their code.

Successful multi-cloud I&O leaders prioritize delivering the standardized infrastructure that developers need to accomplish app modernization, whether the goal is to rehost, refactor, replatform, replace or retire apps. Developers need:

• Self-service workflow automation for development environments

• Modern frameworks, such as microservices, containers and Kubernetes on demand

• Built-in security for managing the container lifecycle

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3. VMware FY22 Q4 Executive Pulse.

Customers achieve bold results with VMware

SGB-SMIT Group

Doubled company size with a multi-cloud strategy

Established consistency across clouds to deliver the innovation and scale to support continued business growth.

STERLING NATIONAL BANK

Exited two data centers in one year

Achieved 80% of goal to onboard 100% of new clients digitally, making it faster for clients, and less labor-intensive for staff.

NSE

Future-proofed to stay ahead of its competition

Created a ubiquitous hybrid cloud with consistent operations and on-demand scalability, improving time to market for new products, and enhancing operational efficiency.

To reduce complexity and speed delivery, businesses are also quickly moving away from building and managing their own Kubernetes stacks and adopting managed Kubernetes infrastructure and distributions with enterprise-grade features. I&O leaders following this trend must be able to support the acceleration of rapidly changing upstream Kubernetes projects and delivering Kubernetes through a native Kubernetes API. This way, organizations can run modern apps alongside traditional apps across clouds and at edge locations from a single digital platform.

A comprehensive platform to run modern apps with existing skills helps organizations experience 5X higher developer productivity.[4]

4. Partner to drive success

I&O leaders partnering and collaborating with stakeholders to establish a Cloud Center of Excellence (CCoE) can reap the benefits of multi-cloud faster. As a company adopts more public clouds and services to meet different business needs, the CCoE defines standards and policies for cloud operations across the business and helps create and facilitate the rules of engagement. This includes:

- Defining and documenting the cloud strategy and cloud operating model
- Establishing governance policies and guardrails for cloud service use
- Driving collaboration and adoption of best practices across a range of disciplines
- Identifying apps and workloads for migration to cloud in collaboration with apps teams
- Optimizing cloud costs while streamlining security and compliance
- Evaluating and potentially supporting the implementation of new and existing cloud technologies

In action, the CCoE typically comprises a cross-functional team of architects and engineers responsible for developing the cloud operating model, governing IT infrastructure and ensuring cloud best practices. Line-of-business team members might also be invited to participate to ensure stakeholder support.

4. Enterprise Strategy Group. "Analyzing the Economic Benefits of Operationalizing Kubernetes with VMware Tanzu Standard." January 2021.

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"VMware is the glue that holds our multi-cloud strategy together. It allows us to share resources, tools and data between Amazon, Google and our own private cloud environments."

Salvatore Cassara
CIO
SGB-SMIT Group

Organizations team with VMware for multi-cloud success

As multi-cloud operating models dominate digital businesses, I&O leaders must be able to effectively leverage consistent cloud infrastructure and services to drive new revenue models and deliver exceptional customer experiences. That is why many team with VMware.

We've extended our integrated stack of industry-leading cloud infrastructure and app services to the public cloud and at the edge, providing organizations with a foundational, ubiquitous software platform to build, run and manage apps consistently across any cloud. With VMware technology, for example, organizations can containerize existing apps using built-in Kubernetes as a service or leverage existing virtual infrastructure administrator skills to operate Kubernetes-based container infrastructure at scale across clouds.

These four tenets, combined with VMware's approach to multi-cloud designed around unifying traditional and cloud native apps, developer experiences, management and operations, and security and governance across all environments, can accelerate any organization's multi-cloud strategy. Ready to execute or fast-track your digital and multi-cloud transformation objectives? Get started at vmware.com/cloud-solutions/multi-cloud.