



How the right hybrid cloud approach can help you manage complexity

From cost controls to finding talent, here's how to address 5 common challenges.

Enterprise leaders overwhelmingly say a hybrid cloud strategy represents the right mix of technologies needed to meet their business goals while balancing cost, performance, and control.¹ But infrastructures that integrate on-premises architectures with private and public clouds tend to create issues around visibility, security, compliance, and costs. Additionally, the skill sets needed to support such environments are in short supply.

These hurdles shouldn't deter you from taking advantage of hybrid cloud's many benefits. Here are some practical approaches for easily managing the most common hybrid cloud challenges:

1. Get better visibility into your entire IT estate

Monitoring usage patterns in your hybrid cloud is crucial to optimizing spending. Yet visibility can become more challenging once you integrate private and public cloud services into your environment. Each will have its solution for managing the platform, plus you'll have a separate solution for your on-premises data center. Additionally, each department or team will likely use different clouds for specific tasks. These divergent solutions can make it more challenging to get an accurate view of how each is being used.

Organizations often try to solve this problem by deploying third-party management software, which typically results in additional costs. A better approach is to create a consumption analysis strategy. This enables you to better understand your cloud service usage by consolidating metrics from multiple sources into a single dashboard.

"Without a consumption analytics tool, you're going to be downloading spreadsheets and trying to mash the data together, and it won't map easily," says Brian Cirrisi, a product manager at Hewlett Packard Enterprise. "Consumption analytics allows you to plug in and look at your usage for each service provider, aggregate it together, and get a unified view across all of them. You can even break usage down from a department or project perspective and see how much is being used on-prem, on your private cloud, and on your public cloud services."

2. Easily understand cloud costs

Cost savings is one of the primary reasons businesses adopt a hybrid cloud architecture. But understanding and managing those costs can be a challenge because each cloud provider has different pricing models, service offerings, and billing structures. The public cloud also allows users to consume resources more easily, which can lead to overspending.

Additionally, it's often difficult to consolidate and compare costs because each platform has its own interfaces and management tools. These factors can add up to a big budget surprise at the end of the month if not effectively managed.

Cirrisi says consumption analytics can help here as well. Because consumption analysis provides granular usage information, you can get a more accurate grasp of the associated costs and even attribute them to a particular application you're running or to a specific group within your company.

"When you have visibility into your usage of all that different infrastructure, you not only see how much of the infrastructure you're actually consuming, you're mapping the cost associated with it," Cirrisi says. "Visibility and cost become inherently tied together."

¹ ["From hybrid cloud by accident to hybrid cloud by design."](#) Hewlett Packard Enterprise, May 2023

3. Confidently secure your assets

Hybrid cloud isn't inherently more difficult to secure, but it introduces some new challenges because having more environments to manage can increase the complexity of securing them.

Fortunately, you can take steps to make hybrid security easier, starting with understanding your security responsibilities in the cloud environment. The shared responsibility model provides a general guideline. In most implementations, it dictates the cloud service provider is responsible for protecting the cloud environment and its underlying infrastructure, and the customer is responsible for protecting the apps and data it runs and stores in the cloud environment. It's important to individually review each of your cloud providers' service-level agreements to understand their specific terms. Then, you can factor these requirements into your overarching security strategy.

4. Improve regulatory compliance

Compliance in hybrid clouds can be an issue for many organizations because when multiple service providers are involved, different capabilities around regulatory governance can come into play.

"For many organizations, it's a challenge just determining where they have a compliance issue," Cirrisi says. "They've got workloads on-premises, and they've got workloads in a couple of public clouds. It's hard to get the right information gathered from these various environments so they can be confident that they're compliant."

You can overcome this challenge with a combination of automation and centralized management tools. Automation allows you to implement security practices such as scanning and remediation in a uniform way across architectures. Centralized management tools make it easier to integrate consistent security controls across architectures and maintain visibility throughout the entirety of the hybrid cloud.

5. Effectively manage talent scarcity

The IT talent shortage has been one of the biggest challenges facing hybrid cloud adopters. Organizations don't always have the appropriate talent or culture to navigate the technological, economic, and operating-model changes involved in moving to the cloud. And the right knowledge and skills are increasingly hard to find in a shallow hiring pool.

Some of the talent shortfalls can be offset by implementing automation to handle more operational tasks, Cirrisi says. But many organizations benefit from enlisting a hybrid cloud consultant to quickly augment their in-house team with the required skills.

"An experienced hybrid cloud partner can help fill in that talent gap," Cirrisi says. "They offer a variety of different services, and the customer can pick and choose whatever they need to successfully run their hybrid cloud. The provider can manage your private cloud for you, and you can purchase services that will help you manage your public clouds as well, and anything in between."



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