



Hybrid cloud offers the most flexible path to cloud adoption, say technology leaders

HPE research says hybrid cloud is easier to automate and offers better performance.

For the modern enterprise, there is no one-size-fits-all cloud solution. Instead, most organizations deploy a mixed approach, relying on a combination of public cloud services, closely managed private clouds, and traditional on-premises data centers, depending on the needs of their workloads.

Recent research conducted by Hewlett Packard Enterprise found a hybrid cloud strategy is the optimal choice for enterprises looking to migrate their data and applications to the cloud. In January 2023, HPE heard from more than 900 technology and business executives across nine countries, seeking to understand how their organizations are using hybrid cloud and what lessons they have learned along the way.¹

¹ Conducted by HPE and Publicis Insights with research provider Savanta, the research included interviews with technology and business leaders to understand how hybrid cloud has transformed their companies.

When asked about the topic of flexibility:



60%

of respondents said hybrid cloud (a combination of on-premises, private cloud, and public cloud) offered the most flexible mix of solutions.



56-53%

of users said cloud-only solutions were more flexible.



37%

said running all their apps on-premises was the best path forward.

Leading organizations look at their infrastructure holistically, says Matt Maccaux, global field CTO at HPE. Instead of treating some data and applications as cloud only or on-premises only, they manage the entire environment as a single entity.

“Many enterprises using the public cloud are simply renting someone else’s hardware and software,” says Maccaux. “But if they’re not doing it in a connected way, they don’t get the full benefit. It’s just another organizational silo. Forward-thinking organizations figured out how to manage cloud operations, security, and data long before they ever entered the public cloud. Then the cloud simply became an extension of what they were already doing.”

Hybrid offers a more customized approach

It makes sense that leading organizations choose a hybrid cloud strategy. It allows them to place each workload in the environment that makes the most sense for it. For example, customer- and partner-facing data and applications might be kept in the public cloud, while proprietary data and applications remain safe behind the corporate firewall.

Executives in the survey cited several key advantages to this type of approach. A hybrid cloud allows free data movement to and from different tools and storage environments. Organizations can choose the data paths with the least latency when faster responsiveness is required. Apps can be optimized to run faster in the environment that suits them best. Built-in redundancy can lead to greater uptime. Companies can do more with fewer resources.

“From a pragmatic standpoint, hybrid helps us minimize the number of moving parts,” said a CIO at one large enterprise.

And as companies grow organically or via acquisitions, having a more diverse choice of operating environments becomes almost unavoidable, noted a technology leader at a midsize company. “As our company grew and became more diversified in its products and business models, how we managed all of that became more sophisticated,” he said. “Our systems and our architecture evolved over time.”





Simplicity may be nice, but sophistication is a necessity

Of course, hybrid cloud isn't a product—it's a strategy and that needs to start with a thorough understanding of the organization's processes and priorities. Trusted partners can help businesses optimize their workloads and pick the ideal location for each of them.

As such, hybrid cloud must be integral to an organization's digital transformation strategy but with sufficient flexibility to respond as the business environment or corporate objectives shift over time. HPE recommends enterprises establish a Cloud Business Office (CBO) to serve as a centralized hub for decision-making. The CBO should be a permanent operating body that directs and guides all aspects of the enterprise's cloud program, from initial implementation through ongoing operations. It can also serve to continually test cloud services ensuring each workload operates optimally.

Organizations that seek to ease management burdens should refrain from oversimplifying or consolidating all resources in a single location or with a single service provider. Complexity is an inescapable component of the modern IT enterprise—organizations that learn to manage it intelligently will win in the end.


As one CIO noted, "Keep it simple, stupid" may be a great approach to life, but it's not always practical when managing a sophisticated technological environment. "In this business," she said, "nothing is simple. Having everything in one place isn't possible anymore."


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