# How To Ensure Flexibility in a Hybrid Multicloud Strategy

Keep the focus on these five essential pillars.

OVERVIEW

Enterprises are moving rapidly to diverse cloud models, including hybrid cloud, multicloud and connected cloud networks called interclouds. Forrester Research reports that 62% of public cloud adopters are using at least two unique cloud platforms and that 74% of enterprises characterize their strategy as hybrid or multicloud.
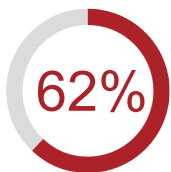
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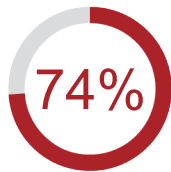
74% OF ENTERPRISES CHARACTERIZE THEIR STRATEGY AS HYBRID OR MULTICLOUD.

Implementing a hybrid multicloud with efficiency and effectiveness can be a major undertaking, particularly for established enterprises with decades of stored data, old applications, and end-of-life servers eating up rack space. Many organizations are already operating with some sort of heterogeneous infrastructure, and the addition of multiple clouds only contributes to that complexity. Expansion of the cloud surface demands new strategies for data protection that apply to data wherever it is. And as customers venture into new cloud territory, there is a looming fear of vendor lock-in.

THE ESSENTIALS OF HYBRID MULTICLOUD

Enterprises looking to build a highly efficient and resilient hybrid multicloud environment at scale should include these five pillars in their strategy:

1. Data visibility – Organizations need to know where their data is, across heterogeneous environments, and must be able to manage it quickly and efficiently.

2. Integrated operations – They need an end-to-end view of their infrastructure that bridges silos and enables workload interoperability.

3. Workload portability – Applications should be dynamically portable between platforms with minimal impact on availability or performance.

4. Data protection – An all-encompassing backup solution should provide complete and efficient recoverability for all infrastructure elements in a single platform and can be managed with a robust set of APIs.

5. Unified business resilience – Downtime isn't acceptable, whether you are on physical servers, virtual machines, containers or in the cloud. Organizations should seek near-zero downtime while working to achieve the previous four objectives.

Most enterprises face significant challenges when addressing these various pillars, however. One notable challenge for large enterprises is data dispersion across their infrastructure. The addition of cloud platforms further complicates the task of identifying and cataloging data, especially when it comes to sensitive data and compliance regulations.

The key to an effective hybrid multicloud strategy is paying careful attention to how it can improve the operational resilience of the business. This goal, however, might be frustrated by the existence of specific point solutions that were deployed to meet very specific needs but were never intended to integrate with one another.

Infrastructure and workload management is often siloed, frustrating efforts to achieve a single, integrated view that enables workload optimization.

On-premises infrastructure complexity and lack of unified control prevent organizations from developing a unified approach to data protection. Multiple backup products may be in use because of acquisitions or reorganizations, each with a different format and different management components. This situation creates barriers to building a single view of data assets. Cloud vendors may also add to this complexity by introducing their own proprietary backup services into the equation.

53% OF IT AND SECURITY PROFESSIONALS ERRONEOUSLY BELIEVE CLOUD PLATFORM PROVIDERS ASSUME MOST OR ALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR SECURITY.

There is also considerable confusion about responsibility for data protection. Enterprise Management Associates reported that 53% of the IT and security professionals who responded to a survey it conducted recently erroneously believed that cloud platform providers assume most or all responsibility for security. In fact, nearly all cloud providers operate under a shared-responsibility model in which providers secure infrastructure and leave data and application protection to the customer.

SOLVING FOR COMPLEXITY

When it comes to solving for heterogeneity across hybrid infrastructures, cloud admins prefer a single, comprehensive platform. Native cloud toolsets can only provide for the environments they supply and do not span outside of their realm of influence. Admins want simple data protection and recovery spanning on-premises and cross-multicloud data.

A data protection platform optimized for hybrid multicloud should address all five multicloud pillars.

An organization can achieve **data visibility** by plugging into data sources across heterogeneous environments and leveraging hundreds of policies and patterns to classify that data. Administrators not only gain deeper insights into what data they have but are also better equipped to comply with regulatory mandates.

Infrastructure **operations** can be **integrated** with a solution that plugs into any backup, cloud, or storage source across heterogeneous environments and provides reporting analytics that span the entirety of the environment, including disparate backup vendors. This approach enables administrators to realize storage, compute, and network efficiencies and to integrate reports with other applications through API integrations.

Workload portability is enabled by a solution that focuses on optimizing individual workloads for seamless movement across platforms, with all capabilities managed from a central interface. Administrators should be able to rehearse and automate every piece of the data center migration to identify and resolve potential failure points so the final move goes off without a hitch.

Backup can be consolidated when an organization standardizes on a platform that provides total secured and encrypted **protection for all data** and infrastructure across public, private, and hybrid clouds. This capability enables large-scale recovery orchestration with a single click and ensures that data is protected and recoverable to enterprise-grade expectations, regardless of its location.

Unified business resilience is achieved through elimination of duplication and incompatibilities caused by having multiple backup solutions. Centralized backup and recovery makes near-zero downtime possible.

A SIMPLER APPROACH

In the early days of the cloud, many organizations adopted a "lift and shift" migration approach, moving workloads on a case-by-case basis. Many of these choices were made as one-off decisions without a long-term view of how applications would interoperate. It's not surprising that 80% of 400 IT decision-makers surveyed by International Data Corp. in 2018 had migrated applications or data from the public cloud back to on-premises.

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A hybrid multicloud strategy introduces new complexity into the environment that needs to be considered before workloads are shifted. If it is thoughtfully planned, large-scale cloud migration creates an opportunity for an organization to simplify and harmonize its data and applications to optimize flexibility. Data protection solutions can not only simplify the task of managing backups across multiple types of infrastructure but can also enable a smooth migration to a hybrid multicloud future.

To learn more about implementing a hybrid multicloud strategy, go to www.veritas.com/cloud.

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