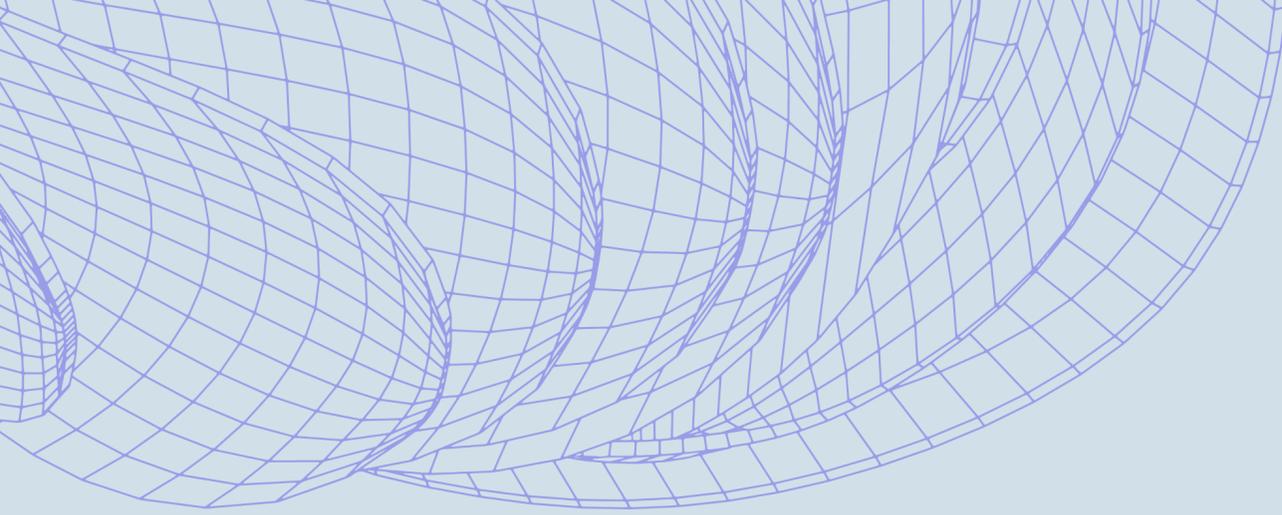


Hybrid cloud optimization

A practical guide for advancing intelligent operations

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As AI reshapes technology strategies, organizations face crucial decisions about their IT infrastructure. While the cloud delivers tremendous value, organizations recognize the distinct advantages of a hybrid approach combining both cloud and on-premises.

This strategic combination creates a pathway to intelligent operations and business success.



Hybrid cloud delivers the best of both worlds: the cloud's agility and scalability and the data center's control and security. With this approach, you keep appropriate corporate data within your data centers and migrate the rest to private and public cloud services.

This balanced approach to IT infrastructure provides clear, measurable benefits for your organization. It creates an ideal foundation for advanced technologies like AI, machine learning, data analytics and automation to advance your business objectives. This guide explores the challenges of a hybrid cloud approach and offers strategies for making the hybrid cloud work for you.

Your optimal hybrid cloud awaits.

The hybrid cloud advantage

Hybrid cloud offers compelling advantages that make it a business priority. It's versatile, efficient and increasingly the first choice for organizations eager to optimize their IT infrastructure and spark growth.

Gaining access to advanced technologies, smoother service deployment and easier experimentation fosters innovation — the kind of innovation that helps you pull ahead of competitors. Other hybrid cloud benefits make the hybrid cloud an even more appealing choice.

Flexibility

A hybrid cloud approach lets you choose the right mix of services for your business. This enables you to avoid vendor lock-in and diversify your cloud strategy depending on function.

Security and control

Hybrid cloud gives you options based on data sensitivity. Secure your most vulnerable data within a data center while storing less sensitive data on public cloud platforms.

Data-driven insights

A hybrid cloud approach makes accessing and analyzing all your data easier for holistic decision-making and strategy development. Public cloud can handle large volumes of data for more accurate insights.

Scalability and elasticity

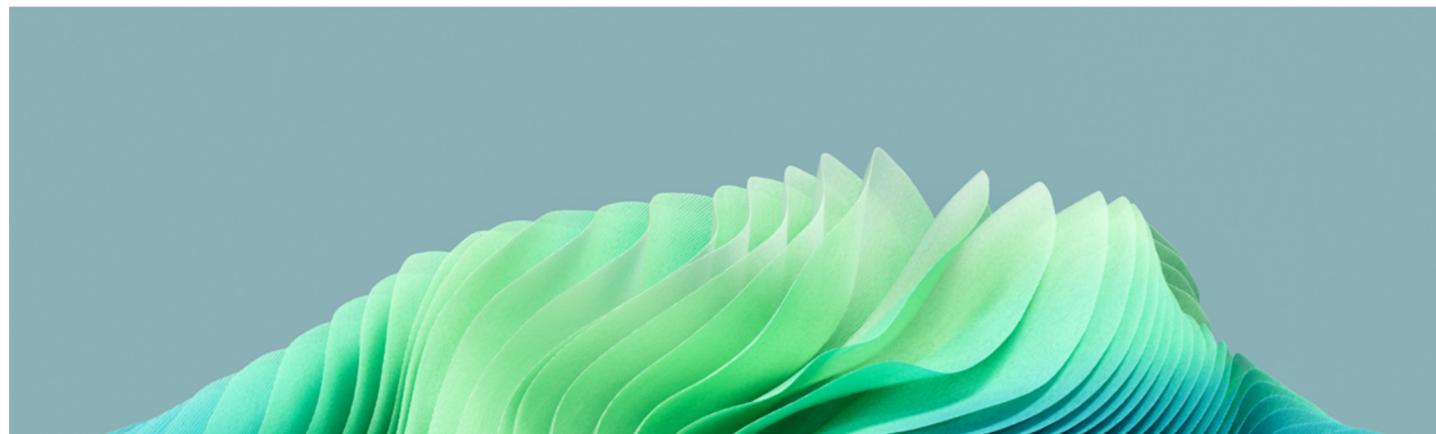
Customer needs, market trends and business initiatives can change fast. The most successful organizations adapt quickly when required. With a hybrid cloud, you can use the data center for more static workloads and the public cloud for more variable workloads so you can scale resources as needed to match demand.

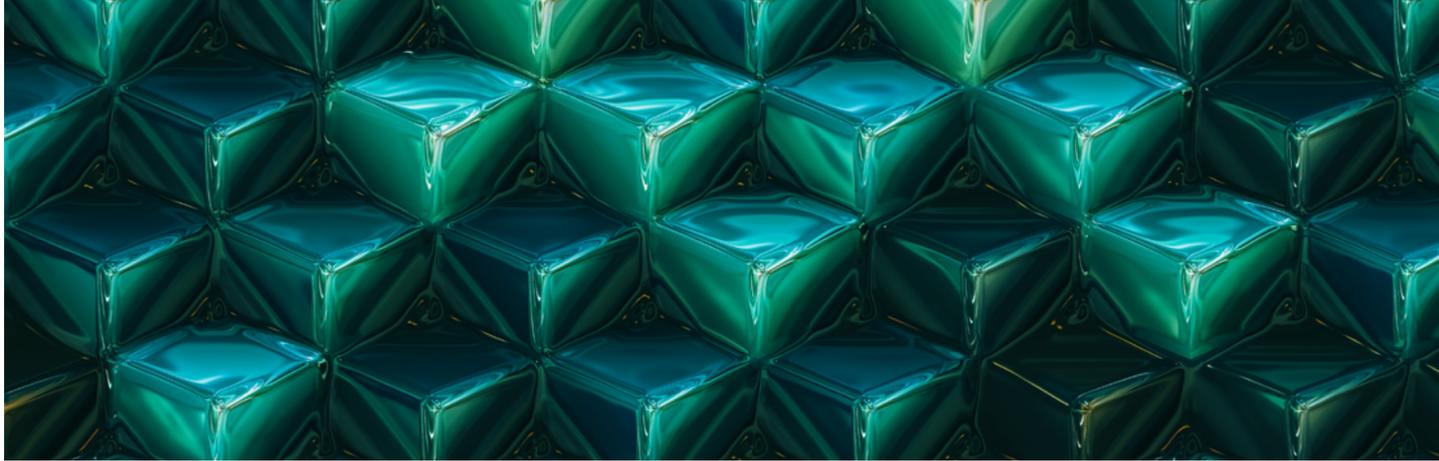
Cost efficiency

The flexibility and scalability you gain from hybrid cloud results in cost savings from resource optimization and more efficient data management. Based on cost considerations, you can move workloads to wherever makes the most sense.

Compliance

Hybrid cloud's secure, flexible framework supports data management and centralized governance. This makes it easier to ensure regulatory compliance across all your environments.





Overcoming hybrid cloud challenges

The incentive to adopt a hybrid cloud model is strong. However, organizations in the planning stages of cloud adoption and those in the post-migration stage alike need help with the complexity of hybrid and multi-cloud environments. Let's examine some of the implementation challenges organizations face.

Security management

A hybrid cloud approach can deliver insights. However, failing to take the proper steps can result in increased complexity and decreased visibility, leading to security challenges.

Integration and interoperability

In a hybrid cloud environment, different environments and systems must exchange data and processes. However, software incompatibility can lead to integration and interoperability challenges.

Scalability and performance

Integrating cloud services and on-premises systems requires aligning the performance of each environment. However, that can lead to latency and networking issues. In addition, workload fluctuations and demand spikes can result without careful planning and resource allocation.

Data privacy and compliance

Ensuring your organization complies with myriad regulations and industry standards is a significant challenge. This is especially true because they vary widely by region and industry.

Migration and implementation

Moving data and applications to a hybrid cloud environment involves a complex integration of on-premises systems and cloud services. With different protocols, data formats and performance, migration takes careful planning to be smooth.

Lack of in-house cloud expertise

Hybrid cloud management takes new technology skills and experience in cloud resources, management tools and the complexities of introducing new applications and public cloud services. The required skills are continuously changing, making this even more challenging.

Strategies for a successful implementation

Success with hybrid cloud requires strategic planning. The following six key strategies will help you maximize value from your hybrid cloud investment.

1

Embrace centralized management

Cloud-managed services like infrastructure-as-a-service, platform-as-a-service and software-as-a-service deliver resources via the internet. Centralized management can support your cloud investment and applications with automation, management and governance. This results in several benefits for your organization, including:



Enhanced security to ensure sensitive data is stored properly in private or public cloud based on sensitivity.



Unmatched flexibility to scale up or down, gaining insights from cloud management's dashboard data to decide the best resource allocation.



Cost savings from your ability to tailor cloud service offerings to your needs and decrease labor costs from better resource allocation.





2

Decide the right workload location

By choosing your workload locations strategically, you can realize the best in cost savings, performance, security and operational efficiency. Consider the cost, operational complexity and scalability, performance and latency requirements of running a workload in specific environments.



Workloads with high compliance and security requirements, for example, may be best suited for private cloud, while public clouds may be your best option for workloads with variable scalability and demand needs.

3

Enhance cloud's scalability and performance

Optimize the cloud's scalability and performance to extract the most value. These capabilities let you enhance:



Automation

Scale resource capacity as your usage changes.



Centralized monitoring

Optimize the running of your systems, adjust whenever needed and get automated alerts if performance degrades.



Self-service catalogs

Enable employees to deploy the right cloud services to do their work by using automated self-service catalogs with preapproved blueprints and built-in security.



4 Strengthen your security and compliance

A hybrid cloud approach adds complexity to maintaining your security posture. Choose a managed hybrid cloud security solution that offers cyber resilience, continuous monitoring and automation.



With an automated tool, you can continually monitor compliance standards and get regular reports, letting you optimize costs, reduce risk and improve security and compliance.

5

Adopt a new IT operations model

The hybrid cloud shifts your environment to a software-defined infrastructure, requiring a new IT operations model. Your options include CloudOps (cloud workload management), FinOps (cloud cost management), SaaSops (software-as-a-service app management), DevSecOps (software development management), NoOps (minimal software management) and AIOps (AI management). As you consider the merits of these possibilities, consider taking [these steps](#):



Introduce site reliability engineering (SRE)

SRE treats IT operations as a software problem and prioritizes breaking down silos among development, operations and resources.



Rethink skills and job roles

With hybrid cloud, multiskilled resources are a priority rather than the siloed resources common in traditional IT operations. Look for talent with broad expertise. Other trends require new skills. For example, infrastructure-as-a-service is making way for platform-as-a-service and software-as-a-service.



Evolve your approach

You're not limited to a single operating model. A combination might be the right choice for your organization. Collaboration is crucial. For example, business, finance, HR and sales must come together for a successful FinOps model.



Train your talent

Provide your IT operations staff with cloud training and certification to support your new operating models. If resources allow, an in-house cloud training program is an effective option for coaching, certification and hands-on experience. If not, seek out training opportunities from external cloud experts and sign up IT team members.

6

Transform business applications

Your business applications can help power your initiatives. For high-performing, scalable and secure applications, migrate your legacy applications to the cloud and modernize them. By doing so, such as with the [Unisys](#) Application Transformation solution, you can harness new features and technologies. Application transformation also benefits you by:



Maintaining compatibility and data integrity



Simplifying support, maintenance and hardware and software upgrades



Delivering an engaging, intuitive user experience



Enhancing performance with advanced features and capabilities



Boosting operational efficiency and cost savings through resource optimization and automation

Making your hybrid cloud dreams a reality

Partnering with Unisys gives you access to expertise and solutions to transform your cloud dreams into tangible business advantages. We bring skilled professionals, proven blueprints and best-in-class methodologies to deliver solutions that go beyond the hype.

Our tailored approach

- Understand your specific challenges
- Design hybrid cloud strategies aligned with your business objectives
- Implement solutions that deliver measurable impact
- Ensure consistent, efficient implementation with a proven delivery method
- Help you adapt to the evolving cloud landscape

Choose Unisys to:

- Speed time to market with a proven and consistent delivery
- Adapt seamlessly as cloud technology evolves, with a flexible, vendor-agnostic framework
- Gain actionable intelligence through data curation and analysis to inform strategic decision-making
- Transform operations by harnessing deep industry expertise and integration capabilities



Ready to optimize your cloud investment?

Take the next step in your cloud journey with these Unisys offerings:



Cloud transformation

Adopt a phased approach to cloud migration and modernization that doesn't disrupt operations.



Cloud management

Enhance your multi-cloud environment with automation, cybersecurity and user experience simplification.



Cloud financial analysis and optimization

Optimize cloud spending and increase efficiency to fuel your business growth and boost your cloud ROI.



Application transformation

Advance your business initiatives and empower innovation with modern applications.



Data center management

Avoid disruption and automate service delivery by consolidating monitoring and response in a unified service.

By acting now, you can position your organization for the greatest success with hybrid cloud.

Connect with Unisys today, and let's bring the advantages of hybrid cloud to your business.



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