Strategic advantages of a hybrid cloud infrastructure

Information is the lifeblood of most organizations, so it’s no surprise that IT leaders with the ability to tap into information are increasingly being included in C-suite discussions.

84% of IT leaders say their role has become a critical component of their organization’s success.¹

76% of their line-of-business counterparts agree.¹

Increased responsibility has its challenges. IT decision-makers are embracing the chance to transform their organizations — 83% are actively seeking digital transformation opportunities to help their companies contribute good to the world.² However, 84% of CIOs say they’re busy performing the functional tasks that keep their organizations running smoothly.¹

As IT decision-makers strive to deliver operational excellence and transformational innovation, they discover that intelligent cloud infrastructure is mission-critical. According to “Workload and TCO Considerations When Choosing Between Public, Private, and Hybrid Cloud,” a 2021 IDC study, a bursting workload on a hybrid cloud cost over 50% less over a five-year period than its native public cloud equivalent — even after taking into account all the costs associated with fees, installation, and management.³ Cloud-enabled businesses are four times more likely to outperform their peers on revenue growth and three times more likely to outperform their peers on profitability.⁴

A hybrid cloud infrastructure represents a best-of-both-worlds approach, enabling IT leaders to customize the optimal mix of public cloud, private cloud, and on-premises infrastructure solutions. Delivering exceptional manageability, enhanced security, agility to scale, and sustainability, the hybrid cloud is now a significant strategic differentiator. The following are four ways a hybrid cloud infrastructure gives your organization a competitive edge.

Smarter technology for all
1. Efficiency
Broader responsibilities, greater demand for IT talent, and higher expectations from employees and customers have created a perfect storm that illuminates inefficient operational processes. As a result, 95% of IT and engineering leaders are prioritizing cloud-enabled process automation. As a result, 95% of IT and engineering leaders are prioritizing cloud-enabled process automation.

Solution
Lenovo’s hybrid cloud offers a new approach to infrastructure that audits processes and applies automation to optimize and reduce workloads fully. Leveraging open ecosystem architecture provides the flexibility to integrate with the organizations’ previous infrastructure investments while leveling up to the efficiencies and advances of cloud computing. Along with flexible cloud storage, IT decision-makers also have access to remote management services and support analytics through one customer portal. With increased visibility and the capability to automate workflows, IT decision-makers maximize their team capacity and significantly reduce organizational downtime. Utilizing as-a-service options can further free resources by incorporating management and lifecycle services, allowing those teams to focus on strategic initiatives.

2. Security
Security considerations remain top of mind for IT decision-makers leading their organizations through digital transformation. It was the number one priority for companies of all sizes surveyed in the Lenovo/Reach3 global report, “Human centered insights to fuel IT’s vision,” in 2022.

Hybrid cloud is the gold standard for security architecture, combining the flexibility and accessibility of the public cloud with the control of the private cloud or on-premises servers. It’s also the optimal solution for situations in which regulations or policies dictate where and how data must be stored, such as international consumer privacy laws, healthcare, and education. What’s critically important is a seamless transition — building a cohesive architecture that’s easy for IT teams to manage and frictionless for employees and customers. Hybrid cloud success depends on a partner orchestrating a unified cloud solution engineered from server to software.

Solution
Security is built into every aspect of Lenovo’s hybrid cloud solution. As the only data center provider with end-to-end manufacturing, Lenovo owns the entire manufacturing supply chain to ensure the integrity of the technology. Our best-in-class data protection delivers intelligent data management across diverse hybrid cloud environments and workloads, streamlined automated security management, and accelerated application performance.

More than half of CIOs spend significant time and budget addressing security management. Those who reduce the security burden with an optimized hybrid cloud infrastructure protect their organizations and free up capacity for innovative projects that give their businesses a competitive edge.
3. Agility and scalability

Improving existing processes is only part of the cloud migration journey, according to the McKinsey research firm. The true benefit of a cloud strategy, they say, comes not just from finding better ways to do what IT already does but in leading the organization in new directions:

“CIOs have a crucial role in getting the business to focus on the far bigger prize: the new businesses, innovative practices, and new sources of revenue that cloud either enables or accelerates.”

This next-level innovation requires agility and customization, which depends on your cloud provider’s flexibility. An effective infrastructure partner delivers scalability in a customizable, less capital-intensive framework.

Cloud-enabled businesses are 4x more likely to outperform their peers on revenue growth and 3x more likely to outperform their peers on profitability.

Solution

Lenovo TruScale Infrastructure as a Service gives you access to the latest data center technology, industry-leading software, and expert services in a pay-as-you-go model. Everything from the pocket to the cloud is available on demand, from an efficient single point of contact in a cost-efficient OpEx model, all tailored to your hybrid cloud needs.
4. Sustainability

IT decision-makers can also put cloud migration in the sustainability “win” column — cloud computing technologies are a greener way to manage digital infrastructure. An Accenture analysis estimates that cloud migration worldwide can eliminate 59 million tons of CO$_2$ emissions annually — the equivalent of taking 22 million cars off the road.$^8$ 60% of corporate data worldwide is now fully stored in the cloud.$^9$

Solution

The Intel® Xeon® Scalable processors in Lenovo hyperconverged infrastructure (HCI) appliances like the ThinkAgile series provide a scalable, space- and power-efficient client platform, whether as part of a traditional on-premises solution or a private cloud. A Lenovo ThinkSystem™ server purchase can also help support several global sustainability initiatives. Partnering with Lenovo, companies benefit from best-practice sustainability across the full technology lifecycle: low-CO$_2$ manufacturing techniques, product packaging made from discarded marine litter, energy-efficient operation, and best-in-class recovery and disposal.

Through Lenovo’s CO$_2$ Of set Services, customers can also compensate for the CO$_2$ emissions associated with their technology by designating credits to go toward CO$_2$ of set projects such as reforestation, renewable energy, and solar power. This makes of setting carbon emissions simple and within the organization’s control.

Nearly 60% of IT leaders are focused on the challenges of helping their organizations grow, scale, and flex with business needs.$^1$ Most IT decision-makers learn quickly that growth is only as stable as the infrastructure it’s built on.

Lenovo’s HCI appliances like the ThinkAgile™ series with Intel® Xeon® Scalable processors optimize workloads and improve efficiency, providing significant improvement in data processing capacity.

SUCCESS STORY

Konecta Peru

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Lenovo TruScale Infrastructure as a Service helped Konecta Peru seamlessly transition to remote work with a new virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) environment. One of the largest full-service business process outsourcing (BPO) contact centers, Konecta Peru had to secure access to client systems for thousands of employees who were now working from home.

“Lenovo TruScale IaaS gives us all the key advantages of the public cloud without any of the drawbacks and with the best experience. With Lenovo TruScale, we can respond to business needs quickly, easily, and without worrying about infrastructure. It certainly lives up to our expectations.”

Carlos Rafael Alayo Velasquez, IT Director, Konecta Peru

Read the whole story >>>
Must-haves for successful hybrid cloud migration

Cloud migrations are mission-critical. They’re also really complicated — which is why IT decision-makers often turn to partners for security expertise, cost management strategies, and migration roadmap development.

Here’s what to look for as you build your hybrid cloud infrastructure solution:

- **Expertise.**
  Guidance is essential. Look for a vendor that has experience with enterprise solutions to deliver the most effective architecture options.

- **End-to-end solutions.**
  Expect a provider to offer hardware, software, and services with global coverage.

- **Open architecture.**
  Open ecosystem architecture provides flexibility to integrate with existing technology investments.

- **Customization.**
  Organizations should be able to customize throughout the process — from manufacturing to implementation to support to renewal.

- **As-a-service solutions.**
  Ensure your cloud spend is never wasted by choosing a pay-as-you-go technology model. Streamline IT workloads with managed services for everything from procurement and deployment through end-of-life asset recovery.

- **Sustainability initiatives.**
  Achieve sustainability goals by choosing technology with comprehensive programs for end-of-life recovery, CO₂ offset, and energy conservation. Look for products and packaging designed to reduce energy consumption, reduce waste, and minimize carbon footprints.

- **A trusted single point of contact.**
  Juggling multiple vendor agreements is inefficient and costly. Lenovo is a single source of support with a network of partners we can tap into to meet our customers’ diverse and unique needs.

Contact your Lenovo representative or Lenovo Authorized Reseller of choice today to see how you can unlock opportunities with a better technology experience. Learn more about our award-winning digital workplace solutions and our flexible hybrid cloud solutions at www.lenovo.com/Hybrid-Cloud-Solutions.

Sources
1. IDG, “2022 Executive Summary State of the CIO,” 2022
2. Reach3 Insights and Lenovo, “Human-centered insights to fuel IT’s vision,” July 2022
3. IDC, “Workload and TCO Considerations When Choosing Between Public, Private, and Hybrid Cloud,” May 2021
4. IBM Institute for Business Value, “The hybrid cloud platform advantage,” 2020