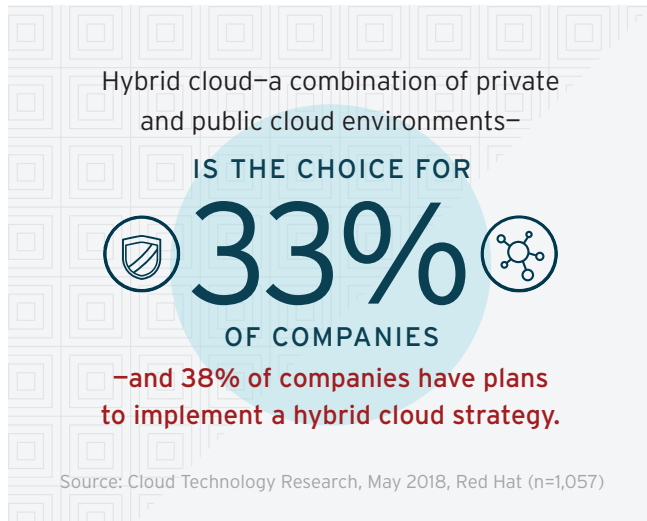




HYBRID CLOUD STRATEGY: FOUR STEPS TO SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION



Private, public, and hybrid cloud computing are gaining popularity as companies seek efficient, cost-effective technology and compute solutions that address their needs in real time. For IT teams, the array of connections, integrations, portability issues, resource options, orchestration, and storage options have increased exponentially—as has the complexity of installing and maintaining cloud environments. But technology alone isn't enough. A thoughtful, strategic, and detailed approach to cloud deployment is essential for success.



Determining what to keep on-site, what to put in the cloud, and how those will work seamlessly together while considering the impact on IT teams should be the top priority when creating a hybrid cloud environment. IT teams should address four essential considerations as they define their hybrid cloud strategy.

1 IDENTIFY YOUR GOALS

Start with your objective then determine the precise steps you need to take to get there. Before putting your cloud strategy in motion, you should:

- Understand and clearly articulate what you are trying to achieve.
- Define clear and specific key performance indicators (KPIs) as well as criteria for success.
- Research applicable policies and regulations for every aspect of your implementation.
- Identify stakeholders—detractors as well as supporters—and walk them through how you plan to address concerns and potential roadblocks.
- Identify implementation challenges and consider options for addressing them before you start, taking into account organizational goals for automation, management, and scalability.
- Analyze which existing applications and workloads can and should be migrated to a new environment, then map out the people and budget you will need for proper support.

2

GET EDUCATED

Hybrid clouds normally use technologies such as containers, container orchestration, common operating systems, runtime environments, flexible storage, and universal developer frameworks and tools. They are used for everything from Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) deployments to tools for data analytics, machine learning, and database functions. Hybrid clouds designed with portability in mind can orchestrate cloud workloads under unified management, but they require the successful navigation of myriad connections and integration points.

3

BUILD YOUR STRATEGY

Follow a proven approach for cloud implementation, and create a thorough checklist to ensure nothing is overlooked in discovery, design, build, proof of concept, testing, and migration. You should:

- Address all potential concerns, issues, and roadblocks before beginning.
- Research successful use cases and align architectures to your company's business needs and operating environment.

4

BRACE FOR IMPACT

Cloud implementation will affect workflows, automation, management policies, and more.

You should:

- Partner with your company's operations team from the beginning, and engage them throughout the implementation. The better they are prepared, the smoother the transition will be.
- Be diligent about communications and documentation—keep all stakeholders informed and aligned throughout the project.

Open source code and software provide the foundation for cloud platforms that deliver all types of business applications in various environments. Linux® is often at the heart of a cloud infrastructure, and for good reason—adopting an open, extensible architecture helps companies avoid vendor lock-in and proprietary implementations, giving them the flexibility to adapt as their business needs and priorities change. Additionally, application developers increasingly package application components in Linux containers that run as microservices across a variety of cloud environments to increase agility.

Download our free e-book to learn more about hybrid cloud strategy and the benefits of open source.

**DOWNLOAD FREE E-BOOK:
HYBRID CLOUD STRATEGY FOR DUMMIES**

When you are ready to get started, contact the hybrid cloud experts at Red Hat.

**CONTACT
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