How to Build a Realistic Public Cloud Deployment Model

The public cloud continues to grow in size and popularity, with providers like Amazon Web Services and Microsoft Azure appealing to a wide range of businesses looking to store and access data with these third-party providers, rather than housing everything in an on-premise data center.

Not only can leveraging the public cloud provide benefits such as simplicity and scalability, but with remote work now a necessity for many employees across industries, many businesses are trying to figure out how to better use the public cloud.

While making this shift can be challenging for some businesses — especially those with significant investment in data center hardware — moving toward the public cloud does not have to be an all-or-nothing proposition. Instead, think of migrating to the public cloud as an evolution, not a revolution. Moving towards the public cloud can be a gradual, affordable process by incorporating a public cloud deployment model into an existing data center for a hybrid setup.

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Adding Flexibility With FlexPod

By using technologies such as FlexPod, a converged infrastructure platform from Cisco and NetApp, businesses can start to move toward a public cloud deployment model without having to disregard their current data centers.

The FlexPod platform combines multiple areas of functionality, including storage, networking and compute, and has a wide range of flexible use cases. In particular, FlexPod is a great option for combining on-premise data center and a full public cloud deployment model.

The platform's components, such as storage arrays, connect to the cloud via NetApp's data fabric technology. "This gives rise to an architecture and set of data services that offer consistent capabilities across endpoints spanning on-premises, edge and multiple public cloud environments," explains Steve Cooke, a product marketing manager in Cisco's Data Center Solutions group.

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Connecting Applications and Infrastructure With Cisco Intersight

As businesses start to move to a public cloud deployment model by using technologies like FlexPod, they also need to think about how to manage their data and infrastructure across hybrid environments. In many cases, businesses leverage their data centers and cloud environments to power applications, both for internal use and customer-facing purposes. Either way, organizations need visibility across all their data, applications and infrastructure, wherever they're housed, rather than having siloes that create security, compliance and performance risks. Using software-as-a-service platforms like Cisco Intersight makes managing systems and data across hybrid environments easy. From the Cisco Intersight platform, businesses can oversee their infrastructure remotely, including FlexPod units, even from a mobile app.

Then, the Cisco Intersight Workload Optimizer connects infrastructure with applications by "continuously analyzing workload consumption, costs, and compliance constraints and matching them to IT resources in real time to prevent performance bottlenecks," explains Cisco.

Securing Hybrid Environments

One reason why businesses might be hesitant to migrate to a public cloud deployment model is a concern over giving up security control and visibility. However, new technologies also make it possible to protect against security threats in both on-premise and cloud environments. For example, Cisco Umbrella provides a centralized, cloud-based way to manage security whether employees use on- or off-network devices. One of the ways Cisco Umbrella protects organizations regardless of their operating environments is by using DNS-level security to help block users from accessing malicious websites and files, from essentially any device.

Moreover, Cisco has recently included features such as its cloud access security broker – also used with Cloudlock – into its Umbrella practice. So as your organization starts to shift from on-premise data centers to a public cloud deployment model, you can set custom security policies as to which cloud services employees can access while also gaining visibility into shadow IT services that employees might be using on their own.

Simplify Your Public Cloud Deployment Model With cStor

While these types of modern technologies make shifting from an on-premise data center to a public cloud deployment model significantly easier than a migration in the past, managing a hybrid environment still takes significant resources that your IT team might be better off dedicating to your core business.

cStor's ManageWise offering provides an on-demand IT service, where we can assess and optimize your IT environment as you make this migration. From there, our engineers provide on-demand support for day-to-day IT operations and other business needs, which saves you from incurring the cost of hiring more employees or going with a full managed service to continually monitor your infrastructure and data.

And as your IT needs change, such as if you move fully to a public cloud deployment model after starting with a hybrid approach, you can re-task our engineers with new projects and priorities, rather than being locked into a contract for a specific function. Ultimately, ManageWise makes migrating to the public cloud even easier and flexible than it otherwise could be, while saving you time and money.

Learn more about how ManageWise can help you gain the IT support you need.

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