REPORT

The future is hybrid
Why your peers are adopting hybrid cloud.

Have you moved 100% of your IT resources and operations to the public cloud yet? If your company is like most, probably not.

A few years ago, many companies thought that the future of IT operations included shutting down their data centers and migrating to the public cloud as part of their efforts to transform, modernize, and differentiate. Organizations are certainly running more workloads in the cloud today, but the on-premises data center isn't going away any time soon.

Instead, the future (and present) of the enterprise data center is a hybrid cloud that connects multiple distributed infrastructure environments through a continuous data management plane, with a consistent operating model, on premises and/or in multiple public clouds. And to get the most out of your hybrid cloud, you want it to enable seamless movement of data between on premises and multicloud without the need for any data conversions or application refactoring.

Many organizations are still in the early phases of their journey toward this integrated hybrid IT operating environment and are trying to cut through the complexity and hype to establish a solid, strategic path forward.

NetApp® recently surveyed customers about their hybrid cloud plans and experiences. We asked about use cases, workloads, the tools and features needed to be successful, and more.

Key findings

1 Hybrid cloud is the preferred architecture.

The majority of survey respondents (77%) plan to operate as a hybrid cloud for the foreseeable future. 17% plan to move all of IT to the public cloud over time, while 6% have no plans to use public cloud.
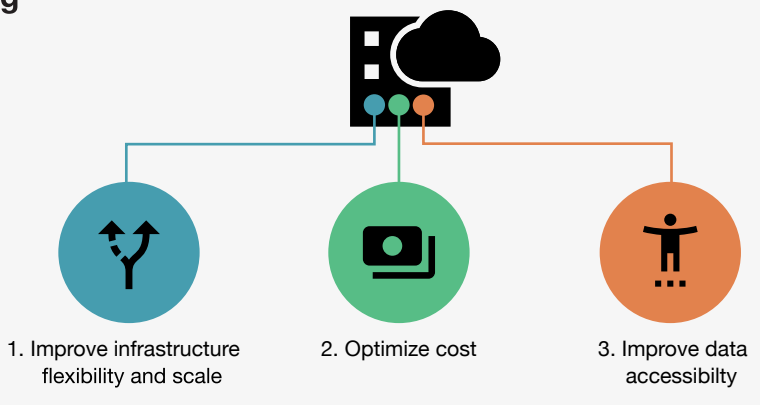
77%

2 Infrastructure flexibility is driving hybrid cloud strategies.

Respondents indicated that their primary reason for operating in a hybrid cloud model is to improve infrastructure flexibility and scale. Optimizing costs and improving data accessibility rounded out the top three drivers.

Top 3 drivers of hybrid cloud

1. Improve infrastructure flexibility and scale
2. Optimize cost
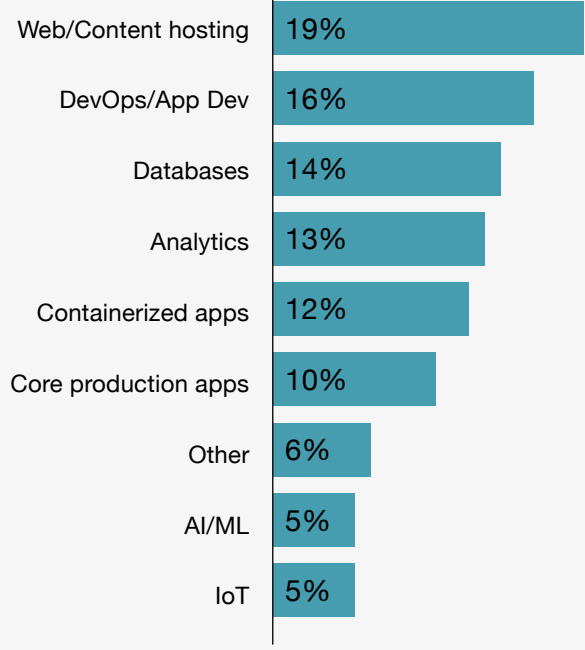3. Improve data accessibility

3 Data protection is the most popular use case.

Most respondents use hybrid cloud to protect their data. Customers have indicated that they start their hybrid cloud journey either by moving secondary storage to the cloud for use cases such as data protection or by moving less business-critical workloads such as application development and DevOps to the cloud. They then move on to more critical workloads.

1. Data protection
(backup, disaster recovery, archiving)

2. Hybrid production
(integrating both on-premises and cloud resources to support the same workload)

3. Data tiering

4 Hybrid cloud workloads are varied.

No dominant workload is being deployed to hybrid clouds; rather, respondents are deploying a mix of workloads. Other workloads mentioned were Exchange and research workloads.

Workload	%
Web/Content hosting	19%
DevOps/App Dev	16%
Databases	14%
Analytics	13%
Containerized apps	12%
Core production apps	10%
Other	6%
AI/ML	5%
IoT	5%

5 Tools that reduce security risks, manage cost, and reduce complexity are critical.
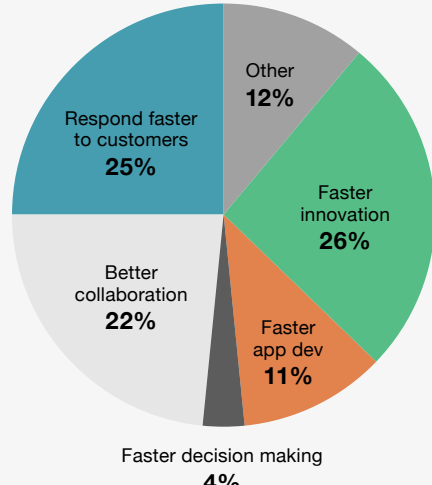
When asked to rank the most important hybrid cloud storage features, respondents selected tools that offer a consistent and integrated data management experience across their distributed hybrid cloud environments.

Tie
- 1 Integrated security, data governance, and compliance tools
- 1 Single control panel for management across distributed environments

Tie
- 2 Flexibility to move data freely across multiple public clouds
- 2 Consistent cost and cost models across distributed environments

6 Faster innovation is the most important business benefit.

Hybrid cloud business benefits

Hybrid cloud flexibility enables organizations to innovate faster. Respondents also included data security, better continuity, greater reliability, and increased data accessibility and availability on the list of business benefits.

- Respond faster to customers 25%
- Other 12%
- Faster innovation 26%
- Faster app dev 11%
- Faster decision making 4%
- Better collaboration 22%

To find out how you can build a better hybrid cloud, visit **www.netapp.com/hybrid-cloud/**

Methodology

The Future Is Hybrid survey was conducted by NetApp among 79 companies (54% AMER, 36% EMEA, 10% APAC) representing large and midsized organizations across diverse industries that have deployed or plan to deploy hybrid cloud architectures with NetApp.

About NetApp

In a world full of generalists, NetApp is a specialist. We're focused on one thing, helping your business get the most out of your data. NetApp brings the enterprise-grade data services you rely on into the cloud, and the simple flexibility of cloud into the data center. Our industry-leading solutions work across diverse customer environments and the world's biggest public clouds.

As a cloud-led, data-centric software company, only NetApp can help build your unique data fabric, simplify and connect your cloud, and securely deliver the right data, services and applications to the right people—anytime, anywhere. www.netapp.com

Not many partnerships are as tried-and-true as ours.

No need to start from scratch when you choose ePlus and NetApp for your data management and integrity needs. From ransomware resiliency and data protection to maximizing the value of hybrid cloud and integrating new technologies, we'll bring broad experience mixed with strategic vision that will help you build upon and extend your success.

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