World Wide Technology

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Top Takeaways:

Public Sector Considerations for a Multi-cloud Environment

Why application modernization and security are key

Increased expectations for enhanced digital services and capabilities from citizens and government employees, combined with the new remote work environment caused by the pandemic, has resulted in the government moving to a more multi-cloud environment. In fact, a survey of 150 federal IT decision makers indicated that 81 percent use more than one cloud platform.

Utilizing a multi-cloud approach provides benefits to agencies, but there must be a focus on the application layer as well as the security implications in order to realize these benefits. Here are four considerations of an effective multi-cloud program:

Future-ready Architecture

One of the key requirements to leading a modernization effort starts with cloud infrastructure transformation, redefining the foundation of IT with cloud capabilities and modern architectures from the data center that can also extend to multi-cloud and the edge for all applications.

It's important to consider a platform that delivers enterprise agility, reliability and efficiency for agencies with private, hybrid and multi-cloud strategies. With a single platform that delivers infrastructure and operational consistency, agencies can improve IT service delivery, support cloud native containerized applications and manage across a mix of data centers, hosted providers and public cloud environments.

Simplified App Modernization

Agencies should focus on their application modernization journey through a strategic approach, including the following steps:

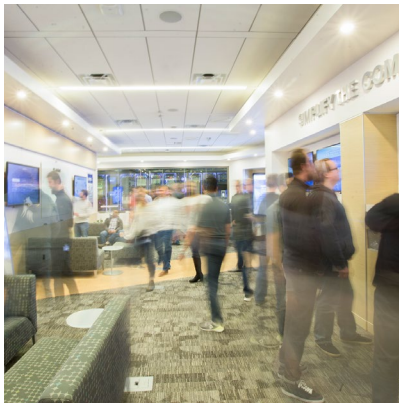
Plan: identify areas of opportunity, risk and mitigations for the app program, and establish an outcomes-based roadmap and plan on how to achieve key business objectives based on research and evidence.

Build and evolve: design an app platform that considers both apps and infrastructure, while installing, configuring and integrating the components needed to enable a developer-centric, production-ready platform.

Launch and adopt: establish a seamless and efficient path to production and create a developer on-ramp for low-friction, self-service migration.

Manage: establish modern practices for sustained cloud native success, including updating and patching the app to achieve vulnerability and legacy budgets, while maintaining availability goals.

This will improve the agility and flexibility of the application development and migration process, enabling agencies to take full advantage of multi-cloud platforms.



Containerized Approach

Modern applications allow agencies to rapidly deliver new digital experiences, but without the right tools and strategy in place, it can be challenging to transform legacy applications and infrastructure. One step that agencies need to take in their app modernization journey is to introduce containers into their software architecture. Containers enable agencies to move and reliably run applications from one cloud environment to another.

Containers comprise an application in a form that's portable and easy to deploy on any compatible system—in any private cloud, public cloud and even at the edge—and they consume resources efficiently, enabling high density and resource utilization.

Intrinsic Security

Agencies have purchased and deployed multiple security products from multiple vendors into various levels of their cloud environments. This is why it is important to build security into an agency's infrastructure. This is where intrinsic security is important.

Intrinsic security is not a product, tool or bundle. It is a strategy for leveraging an agency's infrastructure and control points in new ways—in real time—across any app, cloud or device. It's a strategy that includes building security into an environment, not bolting it on.

Rather than relying on a standalone product for each capability, intrinsic security maximizes controls directly built-in to the infrastructure. By leveraging the virtual layer, agencies can use their existing infrastructure in new ways to protect endpoints and workloads, networks, workspaces and clouds, while gaining greater visibility and control over policies.

Intrinsic security enables agencies to:

- Segment networks and inspect traffic
- Consolidate endpoint and workload protections
- Protect digital workspaces
- Mitigate cloud security risks
- Adopt a zero trust architecture

Bottom Line

It's important for agencies to provide a unified approach to building, running and managing traditional and modern applications on any cloud. By adopting a single platform that functions across all application types and multiple cloud environments, agencies can migrate and run applications seamlessly and securely. Architecting a multi-cloud environment that best matches an agency's application set will provide the flexibility to build, deploy and manage apps from the data center to the cloud to the edge.

About World Wide Technology

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