The Ultimate Guide to Building a Successful Hybrid Cloud Strategy

Simplify the Hybrid Complexity of Modern IT With TierPoint and VMware

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Introduction

Fueled by the COVID-19 pandemic, businesses were forced to accelerate digital transformations as stay-at-home workers and customers changed how they work and do business. The need for flexible IT environments is no longer a luxury, it's a necessity.

In many organizations, Infrastructure-as-a-Service (IaaS) is used for some workloads while private clouds are applied to others, be it due to cost, compliance, or technology reasons. Among the most popular public IaaS providers are Amazon Web Services (AWS), Google Cloud platform, and Microsoft Azure.

In today's digitally-driven workforce, IT leaders are now turning to hybrid cloud strategies to achieve the speed, scale, efficiency, and control needed to keep pace with changing business and customer needs.

According to a recent hybrid cloud trends report commissioned by Cisco, hybrid cloud and multi-cloud have become the new normal, with 82% of respondents having already adopted hybrid cloud post-pandemic. In the same report, 79% of survey respondents said that more than 51% of their workloads will run on different hardware across environments, which reinforces the need for a comprehensive toolset for managing workloads regardless of where they reside.[1]

Not to be confused with multi-cloud, hybrid cloud differs in one significant way – the inclusion of private cloud infrastructure (such as an enterprise's own data center) along with one or more public cloud services, such as IaaS offerings. To get a better understanding, let's dive a little deeper into hybrid cloud.

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Hybrid Cloud Architecture and Infrastructure Overview

Put simply, hybrid cloud architecture is the combination of public and private clouds by a wide area network or broadband connection, through which applications, workloads, and data can be shared and managed as a single IT infrastructure.

Why Are Businesses Choosing Hybrid Cloud?

Today, organizations are facing extremely quick changes in the way they do business, and many are still learning to adapt to the post-pandemic digital world. The pressure is on for IT leaders to deliver innovative, customer experiences to stay competitive and ensure business continuity.

This pressure, coupled with the ever-increasing diversity of products, technologies, and services that are being used by organizations, is driving IT leaders to rethink their cloud strategies. By taking a hybrid approach, organizations can become more agile and efficient as they learn to adapt to changing business and customer needs.

During the first half of 2022, IBM commissioned Forrester Consulting to study the role of hybrid cloud in supporting increasingly complex application workloads as part of digital transformation. The research revealed that IT leaders are embracing true hybrid strategies to boost their confidence in supporting their organizations' primary application workloads on any platform while also ensuring they have the portability to switch between platforms as needed.[2]

Commonly Perceived Challenges of Achieving Hybrid Cloud

- Finding a way to leverage traditional infrastructure and accommodate a consumption-based, cloud-centric model is difficult

- Lack of IT infrastructure expertise/talent

- Inability to implement changes quickly impedes growth

- Lack of portability back to the on premises if needed

- High costs associated with infrastructure change

- Difficulty with application security – how can you effectively secure data across multiple environments?

Benefits of Hybrid Cloud

Although hybrid cloud strategies can drive cost savings, their main value lies in supporting a fast-moving digital business transformation. Hybrid cloud's primary benefit is agility, as the need to adapt and change direction quickly has become a core principle of today's digital business.

Hybrid cloud architectures give organizations a common and consistent operating model across their clouds, and the flexibility to move data and apps into different clouds effortlessly and securely. This ability to choose where your application sits and where hybrid computing happens can greatly improve privacy and ensure compliance for regulated applications.

What You Get With Hybrid Cloud

- More control and technical predictability
- Greater architectural flexibility and scalability
- Lower IT costs
- Operating system choice
- Enhanced innovation
- Improved security
- Strengthened interoperability
- Accelerated disaster recovery
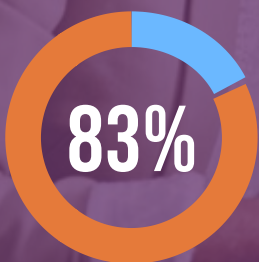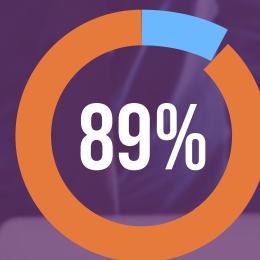- Enhanced customer experiences

BY THE NUMBERS:

98%
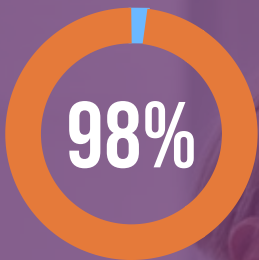
98% of organizations achieved maximized availability and uptime through a comprehensive, well-designed hybrid cloud architecture.[3]

95%

95% of organizations with a well-planned, formal hybrid cloud architecture report an improved security posture.[3]

89%

89% of organizations agree that a hybrid cloud environment is able to store and move data and workloads easily and securely.[4]

83%

83% of organizations agree that a hybrid cloud environment delivers on the openness and flexibility that's needed for today and tomorrow.[4]
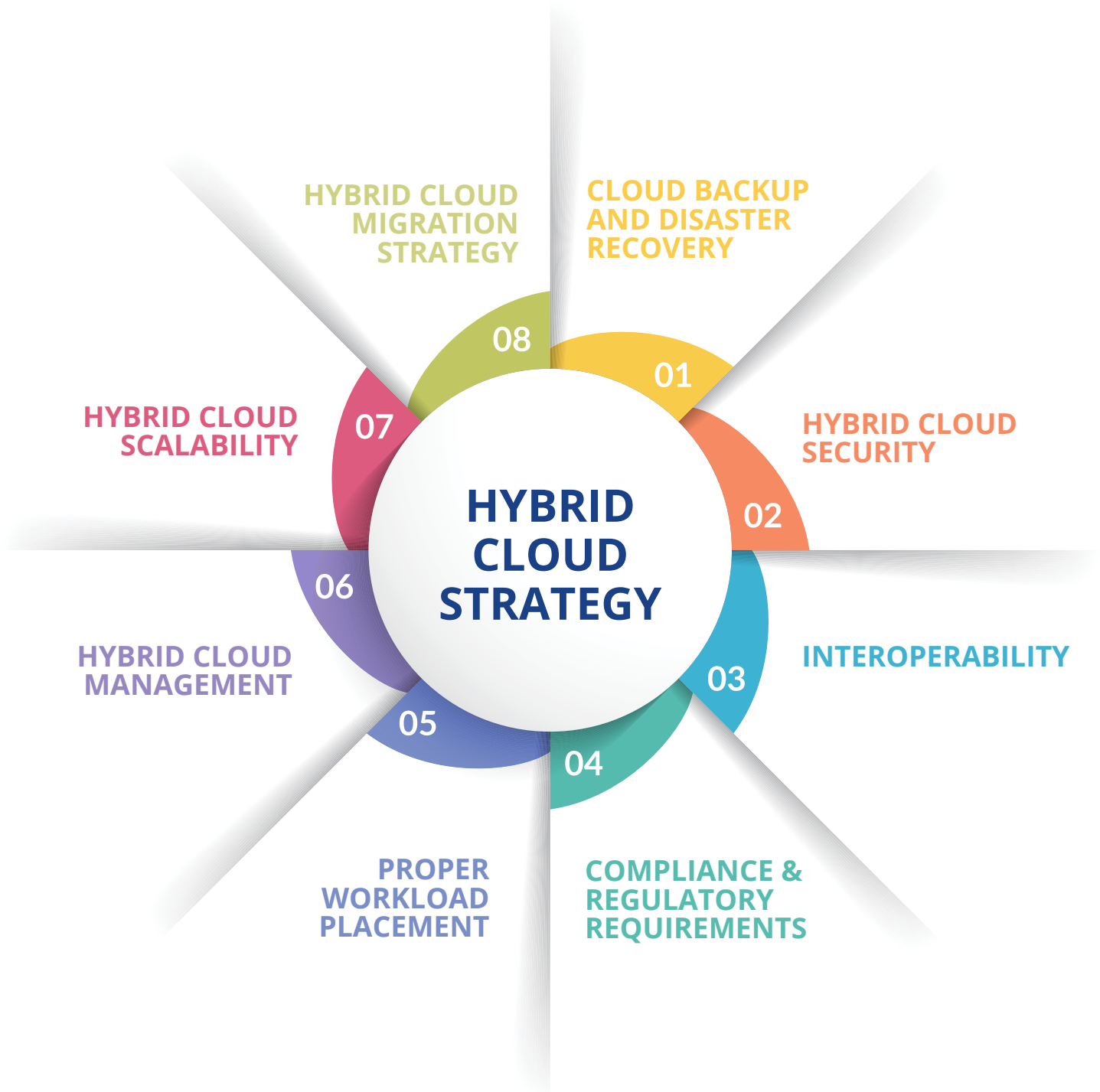
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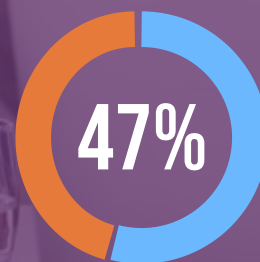
47% of organizations leverage on-premises infrastructure for improved applications or infrastructure performance for their data-sensitive and mission-critical workloads.[4]

WHAT DOES A HYBRID CLOUD STRATEGY ENTAIL?

IT leaders must balance speed and innovation with agility, security, and flexibility to create IT environments that can adapt to complex workloads, applications, and increasing data at the edge. To help, here are the top items every hybrid cloud strategy should have:

HYBRID CLOUD STRATEGY

08 — HYBRID CLOUD MIGRATION STRATEGY

01 — CLOUD BACKUP AND DISASTER RECOVERY

07 — HYBRID CLOUD SCALABILITY

02 — HYBRID CLOUD SECURITY

06 — HYBRID CLOUD MANAGEMENT

03 — INTEROPERABILITY

05 — PROPER WORKLOAD PLACEMENT

04 — COMPLIANCE & REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

Conclusion

In today's uncertain business environment, leveraging a hybrid cloud strategy is best suited to keep organizations agile, resilient, flexible, and secure. TierPoint and VMware are working together to help businesses address hybrid cloud needs. By migrating workloads without having to do any of the painful steps associated with moving to a public cloud, TierPoint can take over the burden of management and day-to-day maintenance of hybrid cloud to free up IT leaders and admin for more innovation at the application level.

TierPoint and VMware are setting up organizations for hybrid cloud success by providing industry-leading infrastructure solutions, such as VxRail. Accelerate data center modernization and provide support for the most demanding workloads and apps with VxRail from VMware.

Set Yourself Up for Hybrid Cloud Success

A leading national provider of hybrid IT solutions, TierPoint helps organizations drive performance and manage risk. We operate more than 40 edge-capable data centers and 8 multitenant cloud pods. We also manage a portfolio of cloud solutions, colocation, disaster recovery, security, and other managed IT services.

To learn more about getting out of the data center game and into hybrid cloud, contact TierPoint at 877.859.TIER or visit the website for more information.

What are the Benefits of VxRail?

- **Seamless Hybrid Cloud Experience:** Start your hybrid cloud journey with VMware Cloud Foundation on VxRail. This solution integrates the hyperconverged infrastructure layer with VMware SDDC software stack for one complete, automated, turnkey, on-premises experience.

- **Powerful Performance for Any Application:** Ensure performance, reliability, and flexibility for a wide range of workloads and applications.

- **Consistent Management and Operations:** Drive operational efficiencies with full-stack integration and automated lifecycle management to deliver a consistent operations experience from core to edge to cloud.

- **Data Center Modernization:** Drive IT transformation and data center modernization with VxRail's combination of advanced infrastructure technologies, automation and orchestration of operational processes, and full lifecycle management offerings.

- **Get Started Right Away:** Access a seamless VMware experience with the only fully integrated, preconfigured, and pre-tested hyperconverged infrastructure appliance.

tierpoint

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[1] Cisco, "2022 Global Hybrid Cloud Trends Report," 2022.
[2] Forrester Consulting, "Are You Getting The Most From Your Hybrid Cloud?," March 2022.
[3] Forbes Insights, "Renewing IT In The Cloud Era, 10 Steps CIOs Are Taking Now," 2019.
[4] Forrester Consulting, "The Key To Enterprise Hybrid Cloud: An Annual Forrester Consulting Study Commissioned By IBM," Nov. 2020.