The importance of a **multi-cloud strategy**

Gaining visibility and control over all cloud environments is essential for secure, modern IT operations

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AS CLOUD ADOPTION SPREADS across government, agencies often end up with a complex mix of environments and services. To control costs, improve operational efficiency and make the most of the technology, agencies should take a more holistic approach to managing clouds.

Thinking holistically prompts agencies to proactively consider and plan for multiple clouds while reducing the risk and cost of managing, securing and governing them — rather than only developing skills and processes for a single cloud provider. Management tools and practices formed from a multi-cloud perspective allow agencies to focus on the entire life cycle of cloud operations. As a result, they can efficiently and effectively set up, deploy, manage and optimally run infrastructure resources and application services anywhere.

In addition, a holistic approach enables agencies to make best-of-breed choices that match the needs of specific agency and mission applications and enables visibility across all cloud environments. Agencies can ensure that resource utilization is optimized, and they can minimize waste while accelerating service delivery and performance.

How multi-cloud management improves security

With a well-thought-out multi-cloud strategy, agencies should have the flexibility to pick the right cloud service with the right security and compliance level (such as FedRAMP or the Defense Department's Impact Levels) with the right economics to best support the applications and workloads.

This flexibility allows for the proper matching of the cloud environment to the degree of security that agencies need for a particular activity.

Management tools designed for multi-cloud environments give IT teams the ability to consistently deploy secure configurations and policies across a variety of applications and clouds using a single set of tools.

Those tools also give agencies the visibility they need to monitor cloud environments so they can quickly identify and remediate any security issues.

Cloud has democratized access to infrastructure and tools for developers, and although this approach is liberating and empowering for those employees, it can create challenges from a security and compliance perspective. Therefore, agencies should ensure that developers have ready access to security-compliant infrastructure and app catalogs so that they can build and deploy applications quickly in response to the needs of customers and employees without compromising security.

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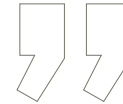
Cloud's role in digital transformation

App modernization is a top priority in digital transformation efforts, and it involves ensuring that the purpose of a particular application drives decisions about the end-user experience, how the application is accessed, and which infrastructure and technologies are used in building it. The cloud is an increasingly effective environment in which to quickly develop and deploy agency applications, and multi-cloud management tools allow agencies to use automation to further

accelerate service delivery.

Simply put, achieving a modern infrastructure requires transforming aging data centers with modern cloud capabilities and adopting a cloud operating model that can be applied on premises or with infrastructure as a service.

VMware Cloud is designed for multi-cloud environments and optimized for any application because we understand that decisions about infrastructure should be based on applications and the constituents they serve. By incorporating digital transformation, infrastructure, application

and management services, VMware Cloud enables agencies to optimize their existing IT investments and confidently adopt new app architectures and clouds. The platform also simplifies management, operations and security across those clouds.

Our vision and strategy for VMware Cloud is to preserve speed and choice while streamlining management and control. ◼

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