The government’s push to adopt cloud solutions is driven in part by the need for greater agility. Cloud technology, however, also presents an opportunity for the government to improve cost-effectiveness across its IT ecosystem.

The use of cloud technology has enabled many agencies to shift IT costs from capital expenditures to operating expenses, and they have grown accustomed to receiving a monthly or quarterly bill from their cloud providers. Dell APEX Flex on Demand provides an additional capability for agencies that want to apply the same model to their infrastructure — from laptops all the way through enterprise-grade servers in the data center and edge devices out in the field.

That approach gives agencies the ability to add to or update their IT infrastructure in response to new security mandates or compliance requirements. When the National Institute of Standards and Technology releases a directive, for example, Dell APEX Flex on Demand can apply the directive’s requirements to the system an agency already has in place or to a new system that supplants an on-premises one.

**THE VISIBILITY AND INSIGHTS TO PREDICT FUTURE EXPENSES**

Maintaining visibility into IT operations is crucial for understanding and mitigating security risks as well as for better managing costs. Agencies might need to achieve a specific return on investment, meet certain efficiencies or comply with unique mission requirements. Regardless of the goal, a simplified cost model provides a comprehensive understanding of what it costs the agency to run workloads on premises, at the edge or in any cloud location.

Dell APEX also allows agencies to maintain oversight of their IT environment and expenses when they are running a software factory and pushing out new capabilities on a continuous basis. Anytime something new is put in the cloud, it’s important to have visibility into its long-term costs so that agencies can avoid inefficiencies. In addition, cost overruns could cause an agency to pull back other services in order to stay within a certain cost structure or budget.

The ability to plan for expenses and pay only for what they use gives agencies a greater sense of control over their IT operations.

In other words, if an agency needs to replace server X with server Y to support a new NIST requirement, zero-day patch or BIOS update, we can shift activities from whatever the agency is running on premises to bring in new capabilities without having to shift the agency’s cost model.

**STREAMLINING SUPPORT FOR SECURITY MANDATES**

Instead of buying infrastructure upfront as a capital expenditure and then using an OpEx model to pay for the cloud services that run on the infrastructure, Dell Technologies can tie all those resources together so that agencies pay for their infrastructure based on their utilization, as they do with cloud services.
detailed insights into how much it will cost to run an IT infrastructure for the next three to five years. Those insights should include how much it will cost to run workloads in a variety of environments and what will happen if new infrastructure needs to be added during that time so that agencies can make strategic choices.

Dell APEX Flex on Demand combines the agility of a public cloud with the control of a private cloud to give agencies the ability to better manage costs, security and overall IT operations now and in the future.

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