

Navigating the complexities of **cloud repatriation**

Determining the optimal placement of workloads, apps and data should be a central element of any agency's broader multi-cloud strategy



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A part of the push for digital transformation, agencies are expanding their use of cloud technology because it supports the ability to adopt other innovative new tools. However, effectively managing a mix of private and public clouds requires a comprehensive strategy that is flexible enough for agencies to reallocate cloud workloads as their needs change.

Cloud repatriation is often defined as moving data and apps from a public cloud to a private, on-premises environment, but there are many options. The goal is to shift workloads, data or apps in a way that makes the most of multi-cloud and hybrid ecosystems and streamlines the management of those ecosystems for maximum performance.

Having the flexibility to relocate applications to the most appropriate cloud — public or private — is an essential building block of any cloud strategy. In addition, having

a documented methodology that matches certain types of applications with specific clouds will ensure that decisions are made based on application attributes.

Reasons for moving to another cloud

There are many factors that might prompt agencies to consider moving to another cloud environment, including cost, application performance, security and data protection requirements.

In most public clouds, applications with frequent data uploads or downloads will typically incur higher-than-normal hosting costs due to ingress and egress charges. Ideally, agencies should have a consumption model that aligns with their data access needs.

Similarly, depending on the volume of data and the location of users and adjacent applications, latency may be introduced into application processing,

which will present itself to users as poor performance.

In addition, security or data storage requirements may change over time, and those changes might necessitate the move to a private cloud so that agencies can maintain tighter control over sensitive workloads and data.

Finally, agencies may find that a particular cloud cannot offer the security, predictable costs and visibility that they require and may choose to shift to another provider or an in-house system.

Simplifying management of multi-cloud environments

When deciding where to move cloud workloads, agencies have a number of factors to consider. The most important is the application architecture, which should be designed in a way that allows agencies to take full advantage of the cloud environment.

Before moving any applications, agencies should categorize them

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based on the seven R's of application migration: refactor, replatform, repurchase, rehost, relocate, retain and retire.

Agencies should also document all known dependencies between applications and ensure that any moves include as many adjacent applications as possible. In addition, they will need to factor in any hardware dependencies.

The Dell Technologies Cloud offers a

tightly integrated and easy-to-manage solution across private and public clouds so that agencies can provide a consistent cloud experience for users. We help agencies determine whether their workloads are on the right cloud and streamline the process of shifting resources if necessary while reducing security risks.

Becoming more strategic about cloud repatriation brings many benefits for agencies. A well-built multi-cloud

environment provides the ability to run the right application in the right cloud at the right time. Agencies will be able to manage all cloud environments through a single pane of glass, and they will ultimately be able to better manage their digital transformation. ■

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