



PLANNING FOR HYBRID CLOUD:

20 Questions to Set Yourself Up for Success

According to a 2020 O'Reilly survey, 88% of organizations are using some form of cloud computing today (including private cloud solutions as well as IaaS, PaaS, and SaaS), but half of them (49%) also continue to run applications in more traditional on-premises infrastructure¹.



This hybrid model allows on-demand scalability and the benefits of XaaS integrations while enabling strategic use of on-prem systems. Whether you plan to sunset them eventually or continue operating a hybrid mix, on-prem and private cloud workloads remain for numerous reasons, including dependencies, difficulty updating end of life applications, lower latencies for mass data processing, and compliance standards that affect data sovereignty.

Hybrid cloud makes sense for so many organizations because it provides three essential benefits: scalability, cost-efficiency, and innovation. But while it enables a “best of both worlds” approach, it can also present an array of new management considerations and complexities.

To set yourself up for success, begin your hybrid cloud planning by asking these twenty essential questions.



Defining Your Corporate Cloud Policy

With cloud computing comes distribution across numerous providers and platforms. It's easier than ever for individual departments to procure their own solutions, adding to the potential for sprawl and shadow IT.

A robust hybrid cloud strategy must therefore begin with a comprehensive cloud policy. You need to be able to track your data, set expectations, and optimize your spending and performance.

These questions help you make key decisions on where to host your apps and how to architect the underlying infrastructure for greatest optimization.

You'll discover how applications are being used today and how administrators can best manage them in accordance with corporate requirements moving forward.



Essential Questions

- What is your process for procuring cloud services?
- Where does data reside?
- Who are the application owners within your organization?
- What workloads are mission critical vs. lower priority?
- How will a move to the cloud affect critical workloads?
- Do any applications have daily, weekly, or seasonal workload transitions?
- Are there any special configuration considerations for any workload?
- What are the licensing details for each workload?
- Are any applications dependent on specific hardware?
- Have any applications reached End of Life and need to be replaced or upgraded?



Building for Performance, Security, & Governance

With distributed resources come new security and governance concerns. You must know your responsibilities and which layers of cloud infrastructure fall under your purview.

Adjusting your governance tools and processes for a hybrid paradigm will help you rein in costs and maintain efficiency while allowing visibility across your systems.

Generally speaking, the cloud service provider is responsible for securing the physical hardware, servers, and hypervisors. In a PaaS or SaaS architecture, the service provider will also usually secure the virtual network and operating system; and in SaaS the application itself.

Once you know which areas are your responsibility, you must choose tools and processes to maintain your corporate governance requirements and security controls.



Essential Questions

- How do workloads move between cloud and on-prem systems?
- Do any workloads have stricter security or compliance requirements?
- How will you enable security management and encryption across a hybrid environment?
- What measures will you take to enforce governance policies?
- How does governance change within cloud-hosted workloads?
- What are your priorities for balancing cost and performance?
- What are your cloud cost control policies?
- Does your identity plane function across on-prem and cloud?
- How will you manage resource consistency (such as tagging and cloud templates) for configuration, discoverability, and recovery?

When it comes to performance, there is just one simple question that usually has a very lengthy answer:



Do you have a clear picture of your current environment?

Answering this question requires an in-depth examination of every component involved, from network architecture to the individual virtual machines and hardware servers that run them.

You'll want to complete a discovery with performance benchmarks and detailed diagrams across the environment and the application inventory you generated in your cloud policy planning.

Some platforms like Azure Arc enable "single pane of glass" management that allows governance, monitoring, and compliance to be controlled across on-prem and cloud services, all within a single central management portal.

This single pane of glass approach is very helpful for consistent governance and security enforcement throughout complex hybrid environments.

Plan ahead to avoid common cloud challenges



With these questions answered and your plans and policies written down, you can strategically adjust your hybrid architecture to continually optimize based on performance, specific workload requirements, and the needs of your users and your organization.

You will also be better equipped to choose additional management tools and make smart hosting decisions throughout your application lifecycles.

The most commonly cited challenges for cloud computing users include ensuring data privacy and security, and maintaining governance and compliance².

By planning ahead, asking the right questions, and making informed choices, you can proactively tackle these challenges.



An experienced partner can help you navigate cloud strategy. Based on years of experience and use cases, Lunavi is prepared to:

- Help select the cloud platforms and management tools that best align with your goals
- Design optimized cloud architecture and environments using best practices in governance, security, identity management, networking, and cost controls
- Provide essential Proofs of Concept and paths to innovation to deliver continuous value
- Assist with ongoing management of cloud platforms and applications, from monitoring and security to patching and updates

1. <https://www.oreilly.com/radar/cloud-adoption-in-2020/>

2. https://cdn2.hubspot.net/hubfs/1624046/2020%20Cloud%20Computing%20executive%20summary_v2.pdf



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