![LOGICALIS Architects of Change]

# How to de-risk your move to hybrid cloud

A hybrid cloud approach is rapidly emerging as the cloud strategy of choice for many organisations because of the flexibility and efficiency it offers when it comes to managing workloads, applications and data effectively. A hybrid cloud strategy is one where the organisation uses a mixture of public and private cloud.

Hybrid cloud can deliver benefits including improved business continuity that lets organisations continue to work even when attending the office is impossible. Having data stored within an accessible cloud means that the business can continue to access mission-critical data and systems even when employees are working remotely. Users can also benefit from increased scalability, risk management, flexibility and cost savings with the right hybrid cloud solution.

However, there are also risks when it comes to moving to hybrid cloud. Organisations that fail to account for and mitigate these risks could find it difficult to achieve the anticipated return on investment in their cloud strategy. Getting any decisions wrong in the early stages can come back to haunt the business as time goes by.

For example, failing to account for future requirements in the early stages, or failing to maintain hybrid cloud adequately over time, can lead to additional cost and complexity later as further cloud instances are added. Some public cloud services may not be completely compatible with on-premise infrastructure and integration may also pose a challenge when transferring across to hybrid cloud environments.

It's essential to account for these risks to ensure a successful transition to hybrid cloud. The downside is potential cost overruns, lack of security, lack of compatibility and a general failure to achieve the anticipated benefits of the hybrid cloud approach.

At Logicalis Australia, we have helped dozens of businesses move successfully to a hybrid cloud approach. We have discovered that there are seven ways to de-risk the move to hybrid cloud and deliver stronger outcomes for the business:

_"Failing to account for future needs creates a technology debt that can hold organisations back in their digital transformation journey."_

## 1   Make hybrid cloud decisions in the context of business relevance and align goals with business strategy

The beauty of a hybrid cloud strategy is the ability to set up the architecture to support the unique needs of the business. For example, where the business stores and works with sensitive data that needs to be protected, it may make sense to use a private cloud. And, where the organisation needs to scale quickly in response to seasonal demand or other needs, a public cloud may be ideal. It's essential to carefully map out the business needs and the overall business strategy to get a clear picture of how the multicloud architecture should be designed for optimal results.

## 2   Design the network with the future in mind to make orchestration and management easier

Failing to account for future needs creates a technology debt that can hold organisations back in their digital transformation journey. Therefore, it's essential to consider future needs when designing the network. This will help avoid the complexity issues that can arise down the track as cloud instances multiply and become unwieldy.

## 3   Maintain control over cloud and transformation initiatives to avoid mess

Shadow IT and rogue clouds can create risk and complexity, resulting in a confused architecture that is hard to manage, includes security vulnerabilities and diminishes the control an organisation has over its data and workloads. It's therefore essential to impose strict controls over cloud and transformation initiatives to avoid situations where business users stand up their own instances of cloud and other technology without the IT team's knowledge or oversight.

This may require a cultural shift in the organisation, especially if business users tend to feel constrained by IT governance and policies. Change management techniques can be helpful in training business users to understand the crucial need for control in a hybrid cloud environment.

## 4 Review how information flows in the organisation and ensure cloud is optimised accordingly

Not all of an organisation's workflows necessarily need to be migrated to the cloud. It's important to review workflows and workloads to determine which ones will genuinely benefit from being in a cloud environment versus those which can remain as is. Where it does make sense to move data to the cloud, it may be necessary to reconfigure the data, so it's important to test applications and projects to ensure they're working as expected.

## 5 Be accountable for process, governance, integrations and expenditure

Organisations can often be confused regarding who is responsible for their cloud-based data, applications, systems, and infrastructure. The cloud model is one of shared responsibility, so the onus is on the organisation to read the fine print and ensure a clear understanding of who is responsible for what. The organisation must be accountable for process, governance, integrations and expenditure.

## 6 Keep security top of mind

In the shared responsibility model, it can be tempting to think that the cloud provider is responsible for security. However, the organisation bears responsibility for securing the data and applications it has in the cloud. This means businesses need to be prepared to set and manage a cloud-based IT security strategy, which is likely to include different challenges and vulnerabilities than an on-premise network.

## 7 Engage the right, highly skilled resources to manage cloud integration

The journey to the cloud is filled with potential pitfalls and risks. While these are far outweighed by the potential benefits that cloud can deliver, the least risky way to move to the cloud is to ensure the right resources are allocated to the project. It's advisable to work with an experienced partner who can identify and address potential risks, determine the optimal mix of private and public cloud and work collaboratively to navigate the process successfully.

## Use case

City of Whittlesea began its hybrid cloud journey in 2018. Like many organisations, City of Whittlesea's journey included trial and error. Hans Wolf, CIO, Whittlesea, said, "We didn't go to market for a private cloud; we were expecting to go to a public cloud provider, but public cloud was cost-prohibitive, which surprised us."

City of Whittlesea has a cloud-first model and a SaaS-first model but not all of its vendors and software are SaaS-ready. To overcome this, Logicalis Australia used Infrastructure-as-a-Service and Platform-as-a-Service as needed, which is the true epitome of a hybrid model.

To find out how Logicalis Australia can help you de-risk your move to hybrid cloud and deliver a futureproof solution, contact the team today.