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A Frost & Sullivan Virtual Think Tank

# Multi Cloud: Pushing the boundaries of Business Growth through Cloud Transformation

A thought leadership article by:

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Frost & Sullivan, The Growth Pipeline™ Company for 60 years, recently assembled a select group of thought leaders to participate in a series of three Virtual Think Tanks to discuss/brainstorm on the CIOs vision on Hybrid/ Multi Cloud as a foundation for business excellence. The sessions were moderated by Apalak Ghosh, Associate Director and Head, Cloud Computing, ICT Practice Frost & Sullivan, Middle East and South Asia.

The objective of the Virtual Think Tanks was to get key IT decision makers' perspective on evolving digital transformation requirements and the role of Hybrid Cloud in their digital transformation journey. The major focus areas were - Importance of legacy application modernisation, adoption of Hybrid/Multi Cloud among enterprises, challenges in Hybrid/Multi Cloud Journey and the best practices followed to overcome these challenges. Although different groups met on different days, they all discussed a similar set of topics, and many recurring themes emerged in these sessions. This Insights document covers some of the key insights based on the interactive CIO discussions through the series of VTTs.

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## Multi Cloud: Pushing the boundaries of Business Growth through Cloud Transformation

With the growing need for digital transformation, enterprises are investing heavily in digital technologies such as cloud, IoT, AI, etc. Among all the key pillars, Cloud has been at the center of a digital transformation strategy for the majority of enterprises for quite some time. Enterprises are continuously moving their workloads/applications onto the cloud for business agility, flexibility and economies of scale.

With changing business dynamics, enterprises need to re-evaluate their infrastructure and IT strategies to ensure improved business growth and seamless business continuity in hopes of emerging stronger and smarter for the future eventualities. As a result, businesses are expected to take the next leap in their Cloud transformation as per new business requirements in order to become a complete digital-native enterprise and realise business value.



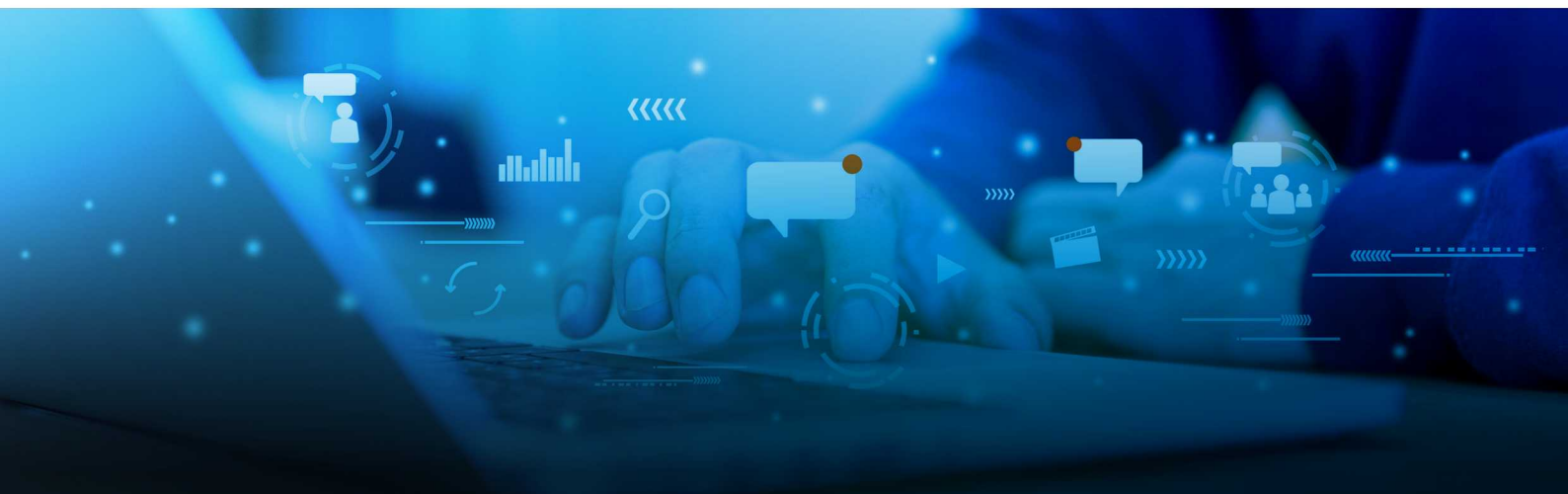
## Accelerating Digital Transformation through Multi-Cloud Environment

In today's context, enterprises are exploring multiple cloud options driven by the dynamic requirements of a multi-cloud environment. That is why; Multi-Cloud Architecture has become an important aspect of IT investment. Enterprises are adopting multi-cloud solutions to build an optimized IT environment by getting the most suitable cloud options from a variety of cloud service providers to fulfil the varied requirements of different types of applications. As per a recent Frost & Sullivan study, 75% of enterprises are using two or more CSPs to fulfil their cloud requirements.

Organizations are adopting a hybrid & multi-cloud framework as it gives them the flexibility to host applications in the optimal infrastructure—and move workloads and data across infrastructures and clouds. It allows enterprises to smoothly transition between various cloud providers depending upon the business needs. Multicloud is not just fuelling the digital transformation, it has also become saviour for many companies to ensure business continuity plan during time of unforeseen crisis. With changing business dynamics, for most businesses, the answer to IT modernization is multi cloud.

## Multi-Cloud Strategy: The Future of IT Environment for Digital Enterprises

Although many businesses currently use multiple cloud providers, true “multi-cloud” remains elusive. That happens mostly due to technology, security, governance and process challenges-difficulties integrating infrastructure environments, and the lack of skills and available time to thoroughly assess the best cloud for each workload. A multi-cloud strategy can support companies not only in having visibility into their current multi-cloud environment, costs, usage across business units, and in reducing administrative burden, but also in assisting them in future workload migration to the cloud or for new cloud-based applications.





## Exhibit 1: Why Businesses Need Multi-cloud Strategy?

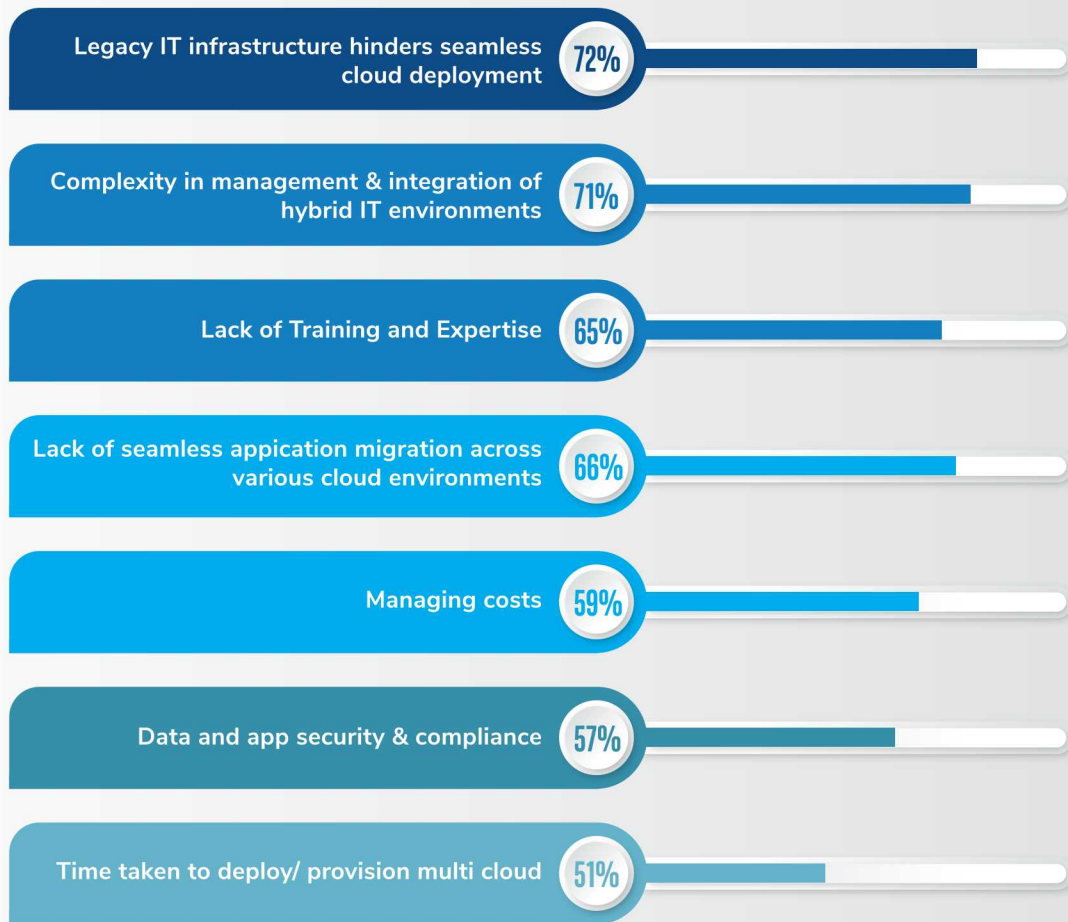


A successful multi cloud strategy will first require a thorough evaluation of the application portfolio, including IT infrastructure, legacy applications and systems, and dependencies that may affect data migration. This will help identify the suitable environment (public cloud, private cloud, container etc.) as per the application/workload requirements. This will help enterprises to build robust migration strategy with objectives such as RoI, TCO etc. In case the company have highly confidential data that needs strict monitoring, it needs to do proper mapping of security, governance and control while choosing suitable cloud environment.

### Major challenges faced by CIOs in Multi-Cloud Journey

Given the required thrust to expand their infrastructure options, organizations are still struggling to implement and manage hybrid and multi-cloud environment effectively. Seamless transition to multi cloud environment and optimally running it could be a daunting process for enterprises.

## Exhibit 2: Major challenges faced by enterprises in effective deployment of Multi-Cloud Environment



Source: F&S End User Survey 2020

Most enterprises have legacy infrastructure and applications that they have been built through the years with a lot of investments. But a lot of core components and applications within legacy infrastructure are not future ready which makes it really difficult for the enterprises to migrate on hybrid or multi-cloud environment.

Number of cloud providers means more complexity in managing them. In today's digitally connected work environment with so many applications to handle, complexity is already so high, networks are extremely delicate to handle. A lot of organizations who are using hybrid or multi-cloud environment are finding it challenges to seamlessly manage it as they do not have a single interface to control, manage, monitor and migrate their applications/workloads across all the environments including On-premise, private cloud and multiple public clouds.

Multi-cloud operations require expertise to efficiently handle it. Multi-cloud users, if not experienced, will find it difficult to manage multi-cloud for large complex infrastructure projects. Security of Apps and Data has always been a concern of enterprises in reference to multi-cloud environment.

# Key Best Practices for Enterprises for the Effective Deployment and Management of a Multi-Cloud Environment

There has to be standard design architecture for operations across multiple clouds.

Reducing complexity with work load optimization across on-premise, data center and private and public clouds.

Micro segmentation policies must exist to ensure safety across multi-cloud environment.

IT teams to consider and analyse the inputs from all departments before implementing an IT transformation initiative.

Enterprises need to modernize their legacy applications so applications can be compatible in a dynamic & ever-changing multi-cloud environment.

Proper training sessions need to be conducted for multi-cloud users.



## About Stovl

Stovl is a Cloud, Data Centre Services company headquartered in Bangalore, India. Founded in 2018, it is an AWS Advanced Consulting Partner, a VMware Multi-cloud Partner, Pure Storage professional services Partner, a Red Hat partner, a Cisco Data Center Business Center. Stovl has customers from USA, APAC and ANZ.

Stovl helps customers with migrating to cloud, adopting AWS Compute, Containers, Serverless, DevOps, Blockchain etc. services. Stovl has extensive skills on Hybrid Cloud. Leveraging Converged Infrastructure, tools for Orchestration and Automation, and emerging solutions such as SDN, Containers, we deliver solutions that are open, secure, automated, and in line with current industry trends. With our strong and extensive experience with VMware Cloud products we help companies adopt and implement a multi-cloud strategy

Visit <https://www.stovl.io> Contact Us at [info@stovl.io](mailto:info@stovl.io)

## About VMware

VMware software powers the world's complex digital infrastructure. The company's cloud, app modernization, networking, security, and digital workspace offerings help customers deliver any application on any cloud across any device. Headquartered in Palo Alto, California, VMware is committed to being a force for good, from its breakthrough technology innovations to its global impact. For more information,

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