



Modern Storage: The Answer to Multicloud Complexity

Innovative organizations need innovative storage to manage and leverage data no matter where it lives.

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Cloud sprawl. Multicloud complexity. Data housed in systems anywhere and everywhere.

No matter what it's called or how it's described, it's a serious problem that's only getting worse. As just about any IT team will attest, the days when data lived solely onprem are long gone and never coming back. Instead, the vast majority of organizations are adopting a data-dispersing "multicloud" approach.

The strategy makes perfect sense: Running applications and storing data in various clouds allows organizations to operate with fewer IT resources. You can pick and choose the clouds you want to use—public, private, or a mix of both—based on what each has to offer for your business.

But there are also a number of significant challenges with multicloud.

Different clouds use different technologies, and the features found in one cloud environment may look nothing like those in the next. There are potential management and security implications as well, and there's always the issue of data mobility between disparate and incompatible cloud-based storage systems.

In this eBook, we'll look more closely at these and other challenges organizations often face in shifting workloads to cloud-based services, and then we'll suggest a novel solution: storage technology that facilitates data management and mobility across the entire multicloud ecosystem.



Data Delivers: The Drive for Innovation and Digitalization

To understand the challenges associated with multicloud, it's helpful to first understand why so many organizations have embraced this approach. The answer has to do with innovation and digitalization.

As digital processes have become more important to efficiency and effectiveness in every aspect of business, companies of all kinds are investing in technologies to help them harness the power of data.

One recent report from McKinsey & Company revealed that digital technology adoption in the past two years has “accelerated dramatically.”⁵

According to a survey of IT organizations conducted by ESG:¹



81%

of IT organizations report data will be their “business” within the next 3 years



75%

said they leverage public cloud infrastructure services



90%

of senior executives report their organization has made technology-based changes to drive digital transformation within the last two years.²



53%

of organizations had an enterprise-wide digital transformation strategy in 2022, up from 42% in 2020.³

Data Deluge

The volume of new data created worldwide is expanding at an estimated compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 23 percent.⁴



Data created worldwide in 2020:

64.1 zettabytes (ZB)

Estimated data volume by 2025:

175 ZB

Underpinning everything is data, which organizations now see as fuel for innovation. Through the deployment of modern digital technologies, they've realized, they can store and access, manage, and mine data from across their business for insights they can use to drive success.

From Cloud to Multicloud: Migration Matters

What these technologies are depends on the organization, of course, but one tech trend—accelerated migration to the cloud—has been ubiquitous across almost every sector for years.

The reasons: “Cloud data ecosystems,” notes a 2022 Gartner report, “provide streamlined delivery and comprehensive functionality that is straightforward to deploy, optimize and maintain.”⁶

As companies innovate to meet the demands of changing markets, a primary goal is to ensure as much as possible that data can be easily accessed and analyzed.

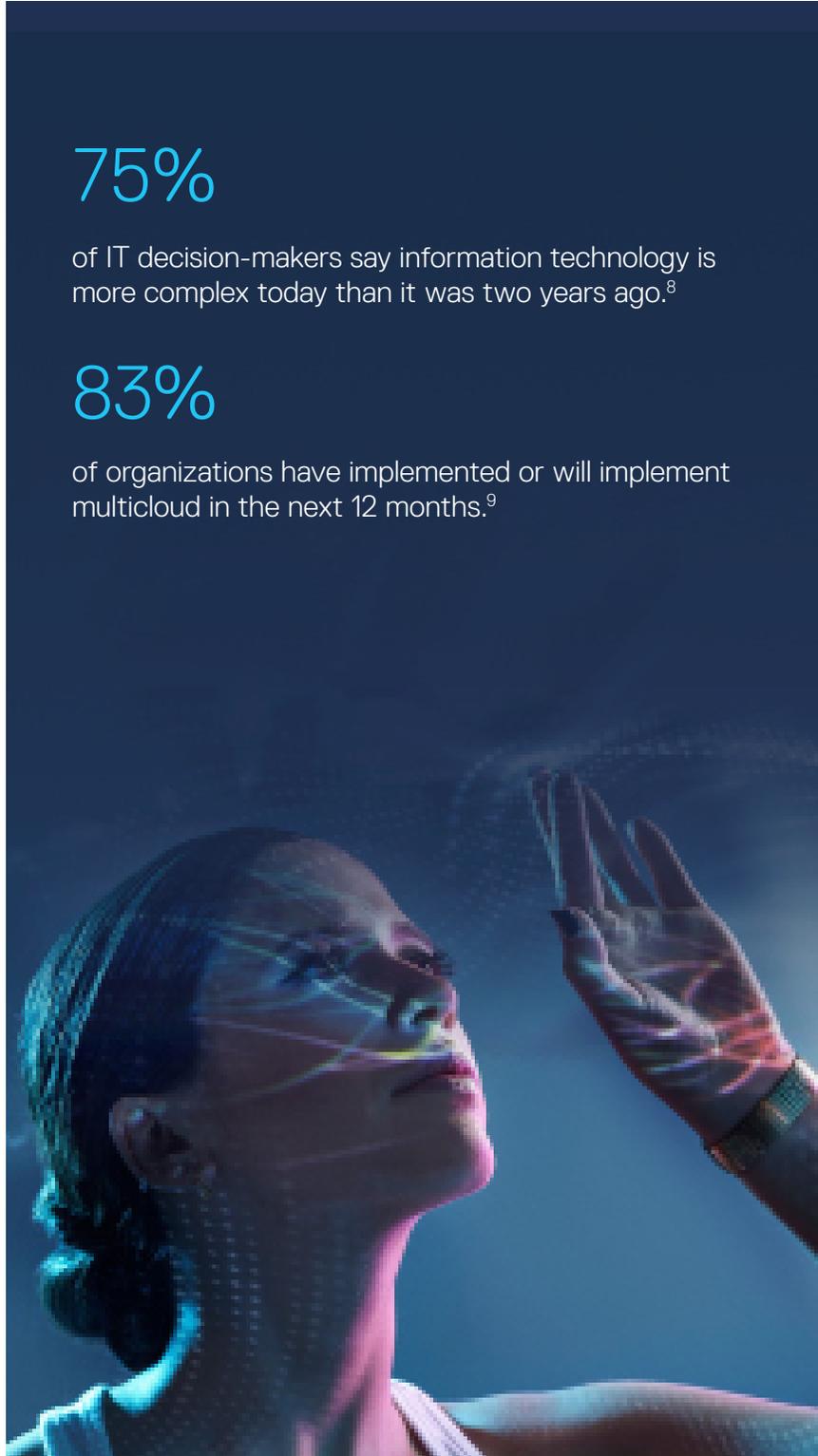
This can be accomplished by relying on IT to spin up new servers and add storage capacity as needed, **but most organizations soon decide to also leverage cloud-based services.** Even in healthcare, where concerns about data privacy and security have slowed cloud migration considerably, close to 60 percent of organizations use public, private, or hybrid cloud platforms for at least some workloads and services.⁷

75%

of IT decision-makers say information technology is more complex today than it was two years ago.⁸

83%

of organizations have implemented or will implement multicloud in the next 12 months.⁹



Survey: More Multicloud Please

According to a survey of IT organizations conducted by ESG:¹⁰

53%

of those who use public cloud services said they leverage three or more providers

50%

said they want to improve connectivity to, and interoperability with, public cloud infrastructure

46%

said they invested in technologies to provide a cloud-like experience on-premises



As cloud-based services have become more popular, most organizations haven't hesitated to sign on with multiple cloud vendors. As Gartner noted in another recent report released ahead of a conference on cloud strategies for infrastructure and operations teams, many organizations have adopted "cloud-first strategies as they turn their attention to advancing the use of cloud services across the business;" and multicloud has steadily gained ground "out of a desire to avoid vendor lock-in or to take advantage of best-of-breed solutions."¹¹

But while a multicloud strategy allows companies to leverage different cloud platforms for different business needs, the approach doesn't always translate to easier work on the part of IT. With data centers built on infrastructure not only on-prem but edge, colocation sites, and public-cloud services as well, **multicloud complexity and a host of related challenges have quickly become the new normal for IT.**



MULTICLOUD COMPLEXITY

Foremost among the challenges technology teams can face when it comes to multicloud usage and management is the need to understand constantly evolving platforms with different features, capabilities, and configurations. **Every cloud—private, public, or hybrid—is created with its own set of technologies**, from its operating systems to its management platform. The nearly impossible job for the people slogging away in IT: ensure that individual workloads are moved to the clouds that best meet their unique requirements.



BUDGETARY CONSTRAINTS

Almost every cloud deployment is initiated with the expectation that it will eventually **help drive cost reductions**. That puts IT in a tough position: as they manage the multicloud environment, they must constantly evaluate workload placements not only according to efficacy and efficiency, but also in terms of how each platform might impact their overall budget.



MODERNIZATION

Each time an organization moves to a new cloud, IT must deal with the difficult work of aligning legacy and traditionally sourced workloads with **the latest capabilities** this newly sourced cloud brings.



UNPREDICTABLE GROWTH

With shadow IT inevitably a factor, IT must constantly check that workloads are placed within the right limits of the right platforms. **Appropriately sizing and approving workloads** is critical to ensuring that spend goes where it should.



LIMITED HUMAN RESOURCES

The talent shortage in IT is real. Organizations that are short on experienced technology staff may have trouble **finding people with the expertise** to handle the management of multiple cloud platforms.



SECURITY AND DATA SOVEREIGNTY

Every time an organization adopts a new cloud, it first must consider the security implications. Cloud providers put technologies, policies, and controls in place in an attempt to **protect their customers** from threats, but IT teams must develop their own security strategies as well.

The IT Talent Shortage & Security Challenges in Multicloud

With any new technology deployment, it's up to IT to get the job done. Cloud implementations are no exception: Without the right expertise on staff, things can go sideways very quickly.

If organizations are lucky, they have the people and the know-how to make the most of the modern multicloud environment. The reality, however, **is that talent is hard to find**. There just aren't enough experienced professionals in IT to meet the demands of the industry.

A 2021 Gartner survey found that information technology executives cite talent shortages as the biggest barrier to the adoption of emerging technologies at their organizations.¹²

A full 64 percent of those polled said talent availability had stood in the way of everything from implementation of compute infrastructure and platform services to the adoption of digital workplace technologies.

Cyberthreats to Data Security

A 2022 survey by the Cloud Security Alliance of more than 700 IT security experts asked them what concerned them most when it came to the security of their cloud environments.¹³ Their top-5 threats, in order of importance:

- 1 Insufficient identity, credentials, access, and key management
- 2 Insecure interfaces and APIs
- 3 Misconfiguration and inadequate change control
- 4 Lack of cloud security architecture and strategy
- 5 Insecure software development

The Multicloud Management Mandate: Solutions IT Needs to Succeed

Because everyone agrees that multicloud is here to stay, the only question is how to make it more manageable. What do the experts working in IT need to have in order to maximize the value of their multicloud environment?

Ask around in any IT department, and the answers will depend on their specific deployments. Invariably, however, a number of themes will emerge focused on a desire for **more simplicity, security, and automation.**

To succeed in multicloud, IT needs:

- 1 A central location for managing their organization's data
- 2 Tools that allow them to access different clouds, streamline cloud management, and reduce multicloud complexity
- 3 Solutions that facilitate secure and efficient data processing and analysis
- 4 Automated processes that allow staff to devote more time to other work
- 5 Platforms that enhance multicloud sovereignty, including optimal placement of various workloads
- 6 Solutions that enable data mobility, security and back-up, and overall reliability for developers who rely on containerization



Dell Technologies: A Partner You Can Trust

While organizations can never hope to control everything, they only need to put the right infrastructure in place to get the most value from their data no matter where it lives. One sure way to drastically reduce the complexity of any multicloud environment: Bolster flexibility, security, and data mobility with storage solutions from Dell Technologies. Three Dell products in particular were created with multicloud challenges in mind:

PowerStore

Intelligent storage designed to adapt to IT's evolving needs, PowerStore facilitates improved workload management by allowing teams to monitor and move data seamlessly between multiple cloud locations.

- Software-driven design
- Adaptable architecture
- Cost-effective multicloud access
- Seamless data and application mobility

PowerMax

The world's most secure mission-critical storage platform, PowerMax offers unmatched cyber-resiliency and seamless movement of application data copies from on-premises to cloud.

- Industry-leading cybersecurity
- Intelligent storage automation
- DevOps manages containers, not infrastructure
- Economical public cloud storage/secondary processing

PowerFlex

An unbounded software-defined infrastructure platform, PowerFlex uses automation to simplify the multicloud experience across storage, compute, and lifecycle management.

- This industry-leading block storage is also available in the AWS Marketplace
- Broad hyperscaler support maximizes multicloud flexibility
- Intelligent insights and unified management simplify operations at scale
- Comprehensive tools enhance DevOps productivity and IT agility

Project Alpine

Brings Dell file, block, and object storage software to public cloud.

- Combine power of Dell storage services with native public cloud services
- Software-driven design
- Adaptable architecture
- Cost-effective multicloud access

Payment Options

Customize your technology and pay only for what you use with Dell APEX Flex on Demand.

A night cityscape with a blue-tinted digital overlay of a network grid. The city lights are reflected in the water, and the grid lines are composed of thin blue lines connecting various points across the image.

Working together, PowerStore, PowerMax, and PowerFlex can deliver the performance, efficiency, and hardware-enabled security IT teams need to optimize control of their multicloud portfolio and innovate into the future. Dealing with a data deluge and the complexity of multiple clouds in different locations? Three platforms and your challenges are solved; that's software-driven storage innovation from Dell.

Learn how your organization can use Dell Technologies storage solutions to power the “any data in any cloud” experience.

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