5 Hybrid Cloud Starting Points

USE CASES

Dev/Test: Biomni, a managed services leader, hosts dev/test in hybrid cloud to quickly create, experiment, and deliver new products to its customers.

Extend Existing Applications: Creative Solutions in Healthcare is accelerating deployment of applications with hybrid cloud, at a third of the cost and a fraction of the time.

Disaster Recovery: Columbia Sportswear's strategy is to seamlessly scale its on premises data center by moving Tier 3 and Tier 4 workloads off premises; and also plans to leverage vCloud Air to provide disaster recovery as a service to remote branch offices.

Modernize Enterprise Applications: Iatric Systems is strategically moving traditional applications to hybrid cloud, improving customer access while developing new revenue streams.

Next Generation Applications: Nexon America is extending its onsite private cloud to hybrid cloud for faster development and delivery of new online gaming services to the market.

Many businesses are beginning to understand that hybrid cloud can provide the best of both worlds: on-demand access to much-needed IT resources, and the flexibility to move workloads onsite or offsite to meet specific needs. The most common question is not "Why hybrid cloud?" but "How do we get started?"

Depending on your specific IT strategy and requirements, consider evaluating the following five types of workloads for hybrid cloud.

Development and Testing

Setting up complete life-cycle environments for development and testing can be time-consuming and costly. As users bypass IT to procure their own public cloud services, many IT departments can't keep up with business demand and are losing control of—and visibility into—IT resources. Hybrid cloud makes it possible to meet demand quickly. Users can develop and test applications in the cloud and then easily move them into production onsite if desired. Moving development and testing to hybrid cloud is an easy, fast, and cost-effective way to gain on-demand capacity for a limited time period.

VMware vCloud® Air™, built on the trusted foundation of VMware vSphere®, leverages the same platform that you already run in your onsite data center. This ensures that testing applications will provide the same results that you would get in your data center. You can create networking topologies that accurately mimic your production workloads so that your applications truly reflect your production environment. Seamless interoperability gives you the freedom to quickly deploy development and test workloads to the cloud and move them back onsite for production or as your requirements change. vCloud Air enables you to simplify and unify your development, testing, and production environments.

Extend Existing Applications

With flat or declining budgets, IT departments are facing the ongoing challenge of reducing costs and freeing up existing resources for more strategic initiatives. One way to do this is to migrate standard packaged applications running in private clouds or that are more costly to run or test onsite. Applications that are not strategic or customized for the business, such as email and collaboration software, offer a cost-effective option for running in hybrid cloud.

vCloud Air supports the thousands of applications and dozens of operating systems certified to run on vSphere—so you can test and run your existing applications in the cloud with no changes required. This addresses a major shortcoming of other cloud providers' offerings: the requirement to rearchitect and reconfigure packaged applications for the provider's specific platform. With vCloud Air, you don't need to rearchitect or reconfigure existing applications, and you won't create additional infrastructure silos with multiple cloud-provider platforms.

Disaster Recovery

Most organizations know they need to protect their business critical information to minimize downtime in the event of outages, failures, disasters and other disruptions. But not all companies have the budget, expertise, or time to develop a comprehensive disaster recovery plan. Although a top IT priority, the expensive nature of deploying a disaster recovery plan is often an unobtainable goal. Disaster recovery in the cloud is emerging as a compelling alternative due to the flexibility in commitment, capacity, and cost.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

According to an IDG Survey, for IT managers who are already using hybrid cloud, more than 50% started with development and testing workloads, 43% started with disaster recovery, and 40% started with packaged applications, such as Microsoft SharePoint/Exchange.

Source: Quick Poll Research: IaaS Hybrid Cloud, IDG Research Services, January 2014

VMware vCloud® Air™ Disaster Recovery provides an easy way to get started with an effective disaster recovery plan—without investing in any hardware, without hiring and training new specialists, and without having to invest in a secondary physical site. The service provides a simple, secure, automated process for replicating and recovering applications and data in the case of a local disaster or disruptive event. vCloud Air Disaster Recovery is built on vSphere, providing full compatibility with your onsite vSphere environment. This means you can protect any virtualized application without custom integration or implementation.

Modernize Enterprise Applications

The cloud is an ideal deployment model for delivering desktop as a service and enterprise applications built on traditional or three-tier architectures. Upgrading enterprise applications presents an opportunity to decide if it makes sense from a cost, management, and operational-efficiency perspective to host that application onsite or move it offsite. You can also choose to keep sensitive data onsite and move the other tiers offsite to take advantage of additional cloud capacity.

vCloud Air delivers a secure and scalable platform for delivering desktop as a service and modernizing applications that are built on traditional architectures. You can leverage your existing IT policies to meet your application's security and compliance requirements. With a virtualized network, you can stretch your existing Layer 2 and Layer 3 networks from your data center to vCloud Air with no manual configuration changes. And you can configure your firewalls and network as if they were in your own data center—so you can replicate the network that your enterprise applications require without starting from scratch.

Next-Generation Applications

IT organizations are embracing development frameworks such as Spring and Ruby on Rails, and platform as a service on Cloud Foundry, to deliver high-quality, next-generation, and mobile applications. These applications are increasingly Web-oriented, with users expecting to access applications and data from a variety of sources, on a variety of devices—anytime, anywhere. They are also data-intensive and need the elasticity to scale to handle demand and sudden, unpredictable spikes in traffic. The cloud is designed to meet these requirements.

vCloud Air offers the best path for developing next-generation and mobile applications. It provides a cloud environment that is interoperable with your onsite VMware environment, ensuring application portability and quality. vCloud Air is a robust platform that you can depend on to accelerate application development and delivery—that provides the same level of security, performance, and availability you expect, with the scalability to accommodate fluctuating workloads.

Get Started

vCloud Air is a secure, dedicated hybrid cloud owned and operated by VMware. The service supports existing applications and new application development, giving you a common platform for seamlessly extending your existing data center to the cloud while leveraging the tools and processes that you already use. With vCloud Air, you can write, deploy, and manage applications in the cloud the same way you do today, without making any changes or additional investments.

To learn how to get started, visit http://vcloud.vmware.com or contact your VMware representative for more information.

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