



2018 Top 10
Business Intelligence Trends
4: The Debate for Multi-Cloud

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The Debate for Multi-Cloud Rages On

If your organization is exploring and evaluating a multi-cloud strategy in 2018, you're not alone.

“There's a stampede of organizations moving their data to the cloud and moving their core applications,” said Chief Product Officer Francois Ajenstat. “And whether it's a ‘lift and shift’ or a re-platforming, we see customers adopting the cloud at a much faster rate than ever.”

According to a recent Gartner study, “a multi-cloud strategy will become the common strategy for 70 percent of enterprises by 2019, up from less than 10 percent today.” Customers are growing sensitive about being locked into a single legacy software solution that doesn't match their future needs. However, switch and migrations have become relatively easier with similar APIs and the use of open standards like Linux, Postgres, MySQL, and others.

It's likely your organization is also evaluating how data centers are designed and run. Your IT department is evaluating hosting environments based on risk, complexity, speed and cost—all factors that increase the difficulty in finding one, single solution for your organization's needs.

Evaluating and implementing a multi-cloud environment can help determine who provides the best performance and support for your situation. According to the Boston Herald, GE re-aligned its cloud hosting strategy to leverage both Microsoft Azure and Amazon Web Services, with the intention to understand the best performing hosting environment and see which contract provides the lowest cost to pass to their customers.



This multi-cloud or hybrid cloud strategy is becoming increasingly important to help reduce risk and provide more choice and flexibility for customers.

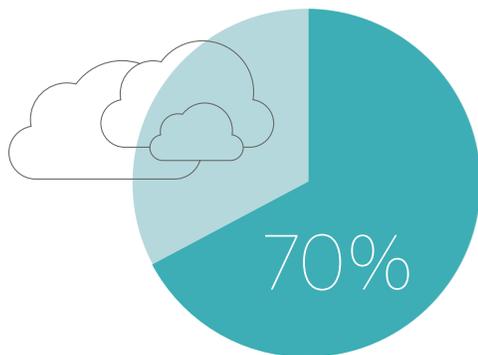
— FRANCOIS AJENSTAT, CHIEF PRODUCT OFFICER, TABLEAU

But the multi-cloud trend doesn't come without a healthy awareness of the merits and challenges of moving to this type of environment. While flexibility is a plus, a multi-cloud environment increases overhead cost from splitting your organization's workloads across multiple providers. And a multi-cloud environment forces an internal developer team to learn multiple platforms and have additional governance processes in place, depending on the different environments they have to support.

Additionally, a multi-cloud strategy could potentially diminish the buying power of a company or organization. If a company is splitting what they buy across multiple providers, it will hurt their volume discounts. This creates a model where a company is buying less at a worse price.

Surveys and stats, such as the Gartner data-point above, indicate multi-cloud adoption is on the rise. However, it doesn't indicate how much of a given platform was adopted. In many multi-cloud cases, organizations are using one provider for most of their needs and very little for others. But most of these use cases fall on implementing a second cloud hosting environment as a backup in case of incompetency or failure of the main cloud hosting environment.

While the rise of multi-cloud adoption in 2018 is on the rise, organizations will have to maneuver through the nuance of assessing whether their strategy measures how much of each cloud platform was adopted, internal usage, and the workload demands and implementation costs.



70% of enterprises will be implementing a multi-cloud strategy by 2019. (Gartner)



74% of Tech Chief Financial Officers say cloud computing will have the most measurable impact on their business in 2017. (Forbes)