

Hybrid IT 101

5 Key Questions Answered



Hybrid IT offers enterprises increased control, improved performance and reduced complexity.

Hybrid IT takes a holistic approach to addressing enterprise IT challenges by leveraging the advantages of a streamlined infrastructure that supports the unique requirements of each application through a combination of public and private cloud, on-premises and data center colocation solutions.

To understand the full benefits of a hybrid IT environment, learn the basics with this quick list of questions and answers.

What is hybrid IT?

Businesses use a wide variety of applications, IT environments and technical services to operate and serve internal and external customers. Each application and service answers a different business need.

APPLICATIONS

- ERP
- eCommerce
- Online Translation Processes (OLTP)
- CRM
- Human Resources
- Collaboration

Requirements for managing these application workloads vary widely. For example, some are designed to process a high volume of transactions, and some types of data have different compliance conditions than others.

IT SERVICES

- Collaboration
- Cloud
- Interconnection
- Data Protection
- Managed Services
- Professional Services

When does it make sense to use hybrid IT solutions?

Hybrid IT makes sense when an enterprise is looking to support different types of workloads, with varying dependencies around compute, storage and security.

1 When a single solution doesn't fit the need, a hybrid option becomes more attractive.

Some organizations may want to leverage the power of public cloud as a quick fix for managing the current explosion of data and applications, but they may find that putting all workloads into the same infrastructure solution can cause unintended consequences.

2 When you need high-speed, predictable throughput for faster applications or payments processing, IoT processing, web downloads, streaming or overall data transfer across your network.

Transporting rich media and mission-critical data seamlessly between your applications and infrastructure and your end-users requires flexible infrastructure services that enable you to scale and manage network capabilities. Software-defined IT service exchanges can deliver virtual access to the resources needed to do this.



\$200 B

Colocation supports a broad-based, flexible IT infrastructure. End-user spending on global data center infrastructure is predicted to reach \$200 billion in 2021.

Source: Gartner

Who can benefit from a hybrid IT Infrastructure solution?

The all-in public cloud model doesn't fit every need. Many businesses in healthcare, financial services and other industries with strict compliance standards don't feel comfortable putting their core applications in the public cloud. In other cases, organizations have stricter security protocols than their industries require and want alternatives to public cloud readily available when needed.

Another reason to adopt hybrid IT is a need to gain more control and visibility into cloud infrastructure services in order to control costs, which can quickly add up when most or all business applications are put in the public cloud.

24%

While many businesses are shifting workloads to the cloud, only 24% say they are "cloud-only."

Source: IDC, AllCloud

Organizations may want to migrate to the cloud, but may discover that security, compliance, or other rigid infrastructure requirements make it necessary to keep certain applications on legacy infrastructure.

Where do various workloads and applications perform best?

When implementing a hybrid IT infrastructure, take a deep look to identify where various processes and applications are best supported and make the most sense financially.

Hosted Private Cloud is ideal for commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) applications with long lifecycles and strict security requirements.

Colocation is ideal for supporting applications where accessibility, security, compliance and latency are key.

Hyperscale cloud environments are optimal for workloads with shorter lifecycles like dev/test and bursty applications like e-commerce.

A hybrid infrastructure can deliver the distributed geographic reach of network-enabled colocation and regionally distributed network hubs at the edge to bring data and applications close to the end user—all while supporting the scalability of cloud and the business integrity of on-premises systems.

2.5x

According to a 2020 Oxford Economics survey, the value derived from a full hybrid, multi-cloud platform technology and operating model at scale is 2.5X the value derived from a single platform, single-cloud-vendor approach. In fact, the cloud-vendor approach accelerates value with scale.

Why do hybrid solutions work so well?

A hybrid IT deployment can increase control, reduce cost and drive IT efficiency by offering greater flexibility and enhanced manageability.

Organizations using hybrid IT are 38% more likely to achieve a decrease in IT expenditures overall. In terms of IT management, a hybrid IT management model allows organizations to customize technical services to meet their exact needs, thus empowering IT teams to make more effective use of their time.

By combining the right mix of infrastructure solutions, hybrid IT delivers:

- Cost saving posture
- Improved overall IT resilience
- Accelerated delivery of new services and applications
- Security tailored to the specific need
- Improved manageability

Flexential's end-to-end solutions portfolio includes colocation, cloud, connectivity, data protection, managed and professional services. Building on this platform, Flexential provides individual assessment and solution design to ensure infrastructure requirements are met with dynamic hybrid IT solutions that flex as an enterprise's needs evolve.

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