

Should your company turn to a **multicloud** solution?



Some organisations still have **legacy applications that support the business**, with many running on their premises.

Others have upgraded their systems to take advantage of private cloud features like automation, simpler administration, and faster upgrades.

In addition, many corporations opted for public cloud services, which move processing from their data centres to the provider's location. Still other businesses opted to blend the two into a multicloud approach. This allowed them to combine multiple cloud computing and storage services from different providers into a unified approach that offers flexibility, redundancy, and the ability to leverage specialised services tailored to their specific needs. Given the different options, many business leaders ask themselves: Which approach is best for me, single cloud or multicloud?

Multicloud strategies need to be deliberate

Business applications create a wide range of performance, management, and cost trade-offs. Flexibility and scalability are significant advantages found in today's cloud architecture. In the past, companies were locked into one approach for the development processes, so deployment and upgrades were tedious, time-consuming, and inefficient.

Nowadays, they have more options. For instance, a company can use Google Cloud for development and testing, AWS for disaster recovery, and Microsoft Azure to process business analytics data, and private cloud services for legacy environments. A multicloud approach consists of a combination of public and private cloud solutions, but their deployment and management varies.

Well-known public cloud providers, such as Microsoft, AWS, or Google, take on all of the computer deployment and management chores. In the case of private cloud services, systems integrators and large telco providers of managed services in regional data centres—such as C&W Business—become responsible for addressing any and all technical issues.

With a single cloud approach, a company relies on one vendor for all of its cloud services. A multicloud strategy refers to a conscious strategic decision by an organisation to depend on more than one cloud provider. Consequently, its workload spans multiple computing infrastructures. This approach provides both competitive advantages and significant challenges.



When is multicloud a solid strategic move?

Ad hoc cloud application deployment enables a company to respond quickly to business drivers. Increasingly, these services are deployed with a few clicks. Multicloud is worth exploring for your company if you have the following business enablers in mind

Become more agile

Businesses want to operate as quickly and efficiently as possible. Traditionally, they have had trouble reaching that goal. One reason is that computer infrastructure is complex, connecting different systems required a lot of manual input, and scaling was time-consuming. The cloud is based on modern technology that automates many manual functions and dramatically reduces development time.

Facilitate engineering speed

Speed in the development and release of new software versions is paramount to business success nowadays. Companies focus on using multicloud to become tool-agnostic and avoid sacrificing any application development speed. With it, everyone on the team uses the tools and environment they're most comfortable with.

Bring best-in-class solutions

The offerings of cloud providers are not totally identical. Multicloud empowers organisations to use the best applications and tools from each cloud provider, for example, a business may benefit from Microsoft Azure business intelligence, Google Machine Learning technology, AWS computing, and proximity and compliance solutions with data sovereignty in the private cloud.

Lower the risk

Technology moves at a rapid rate. A solution can be leading edge one minute and a short time later fall behind, sometimes to the point of becoming obsolete. The cloud provides businesses with the flexibility to deploy leading-edge solutions and swap them out should they lag in innovation. If one vendor falls behind, others pick up the slack.



When is multicloud a must-have?

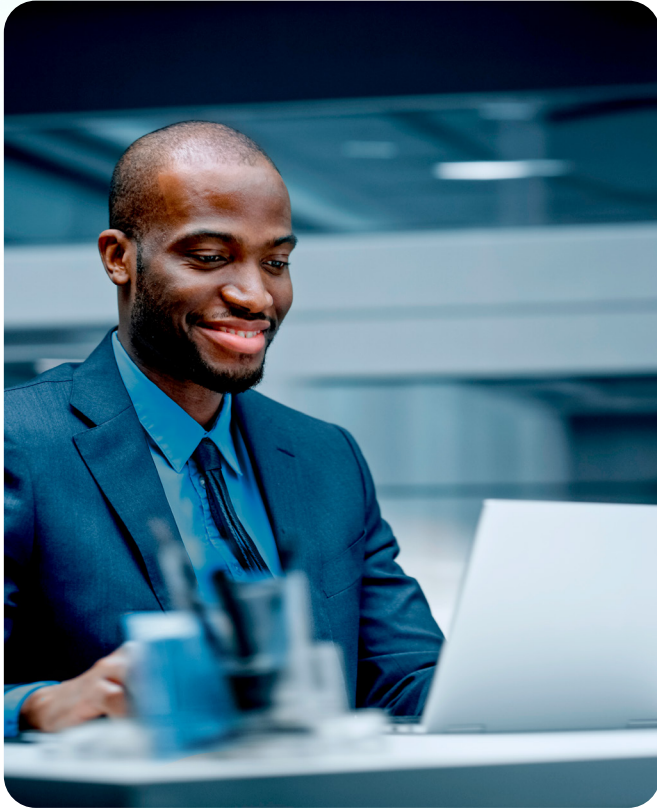
There are several great reasons to run operations on a multicloud environment.

Mergers and acquisitions

Some organisations end up operating in public and private clouds as they acquire other companies. The cost, effort, and time required to migrate everything to a single cloud provider is often not worth it, so the multicloud approach allows everyone to continue using the same provider and solution they were comfortable with before the acquisition.

Legal considerations

Depending on the type of data you collect and the jurisdictions in which you operate, you may need to consider the locations of the cloud provider to make sure you comply with all regulations. There will be times when you need a data centre in multiple jurisdictions. Given that no cloud providers operate in all of them, you will need to allocate the workloads in different clouds.



When is multicloud not the right solution?

Multicloud, like all other technology, is not a panacea and could become a challenge rather than a solution if the strategy is not clear and aligned with the company's needs and capabilities.

Management complexity

One challenge is the management of multiple providers. Each cloud has its own service level agreement, billing terms, training, and management tools. Your company becomes the conduit among them all, requiring that your staff be trained to become conversant in them. Also, organisations assume the role of coordinating security availability as well as aspects associated with the administration, operation, and technical management of data between multiple cloud providers.

Sometimes, technicians bounce among them to pinpoint problems, adding to their administrative time. In cases like this, companies should find the right multicloud initiative partner to help them assess, design, implement, and manage their infrastructure.

Response time considerations

Not all applications work optimally in the cloud. There are some cases where network latency can create performance issues for your business. So, companies need to be sure that their provider is able to deliver quality service. Some of the use cases for a bad user experience due to high latency are:



Short term bursting

This phenomenon, also called CloudBursting, accesses public cloud infrastructure when a private cloud is overrun. If connectivity is not optimal, the service will experience high levels of degradation.



Disaster recovery

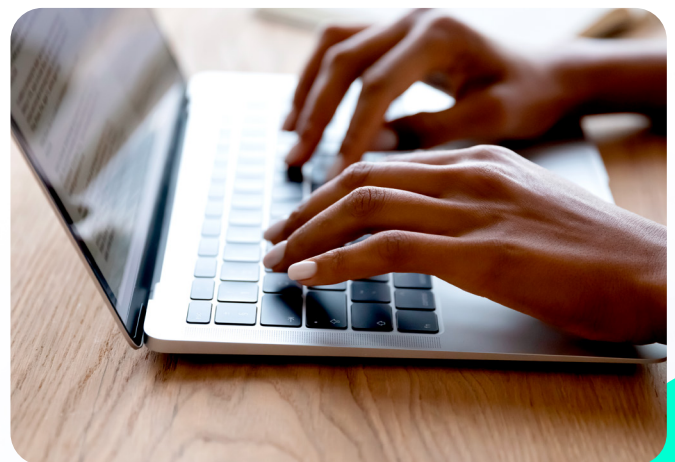
Attempts to replicate the original on-site application in a public service could fail if latency is high, resulting in data loss.



Large databases

Data transfers between different clouds can be time-consuming if the network has bandwidth or latency issues. It's important to have the best connectivity implemented to support fast and efficient exchanges.

Sometimes, companies want to deploy the latest technology because they've read about its benefits, but it's important to think through whether that technology fits their business needs.



Weigh the costs and benefits

So, what is the best option for your company? The evaluation should begin by defining the use case and assessing whether or not you have a legitimate need for multiple clouds.

Businesses can leverage multicloud to reduce costs by diversifying backups across multiple public clouds, ensuring savings and data safety. Or, start using different clouds for software lifecycle stages, like development, testing, staging, and speed up development with DevOps.

C&W Business can help you accelerate your cloud migration strategies and support you through 'Lift & Shift' or 'Migrate & Modernise' scenarios with a comprehensive roadmap to successful cloud adoption. As the only Tier 1 Microsoft Azure-certified cloud solutions provider in the Caribbean, our capabilities go far beyond just cloud adoption assessment services. From direct connectivity to Microsoft Azure to fully managed solutions for private clouds and multicloud environments, we handle it all.

At **C&W Business**, we're your catalyst for transformative success. From Cybersecurity to Cloud, Data Centres, Unified Communications, and Connectivity, our streamlined solutions ensure scalability and security. With the pan-Caribbean region's largest and most reliable network, together, we can unleash the digital future of Caribbean society.

