Navigating to the Cloud with a Hybrid Cloud Assessment

The Often-bumpy Road to the Cloud

Gone are the days of solution providers hosting lunch-n-learns and numerous other educational events to educate clients on cloud technology and its benefits. Today's businesses get it - the cloud is the place to be. But often, it's the journey to get there that poses the real challenge. This is where a business consultation is strategically the place to start, because understanding an organization's readiness for cloud services is a must to ensure a successful move to the cloud.

Why should you consider such a service? Quite simply, it's a lot less pressure. When organizations attempt to go it alone, which usually means asking overworked IT staff to try to fit it into their already crammed day, adding a project as large and complex as an enterprise cloud migration to is simply not realistic. Not only is that approach a disservice to the IT team, it also minimizes the size and importance of the project, and future problems are usually inevitable.

It is key to compare the upfront research against a larger cloud strategy, one where business outcomes are put at the forefront, rather than trying to reverse-engineer technologies.

You wouldn't leap before you look. So, why approach your journey to the cloud in the same way? Take the time to better understand the needs of the business and define your cloud roadmap with a Hybrid Cloud Assessment.

While cloud assessments are different from provider to provider, the assessment process is, for the most part, similar. There are usually three parts to the overall assessment - technology, people and process - and starts off with the assumption that any application can run in the cloud.

The Technology

This portion of the assessment is where a thorough discovery of the existing infrastructure and workloads takes place. Technology experts carefully evaluate your existing environment and document all aspects of your infrastructure that could be affected. This includes your entire architecture, such as databases, applications, networks, specialized hardware, 3rd-party interfaces, etc. Then, they create a fully-comprehensive report that documents these findings and recommends an action plan to successfully migrate to the cloud.

The People

This can be one of the most difficult phases of the assessment, as it's often the most subjective. However, understanding an organization's people and their associated roles and processes is key to a successful cloud migration strategy. Moving to the cloud involves change, and as such, the buy-in and involvement of an organization's people ensures a much smoother transition to the cloud.

The Process

Along with understanding the people, it is crucial there be a thorough understanding of the processes those people are using day-to-day to run the business. By understanding their processes and whether or not cloud will impact them, or make them more efficient, enables a more streamlined roadmap to the cloud. It is in this crucial stage that the business use cases that might benefit most from implementing cloud are determined.

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OneNeck Hybrid Cloud Assessment

Many issues play a role in choosing which cloud (or clouds) is right for your workloads. From technical requirements to human factors, it takes a 360-degree approach to develop the right hybrid cloud roadmap for your unique business and technical needs. We conduct a thorough Hybrid Cloud Assessment that covers all the necessary bases to determine, with your input along the way, the right cloud solution for you.

We begin by assessing how IT enables your business today, and discovering your goals and requirements for a successful cloud strategy. We conduct interviews with key stakeholders from the business, process owners and the IT teams, and also review existing technical documentation to understand your current operating model and its ability to support the next phase of cloud.

One cloud is rarely the right solution for 100% of your workloads. We recommend the right mix of on-premise or colocated customer-owned solutions, hosted private cloud and public cloud solutions. We are invested in your success, not a single cloud or data center solution.

The Hybrid Cloud Assessment will prepare you for the next steps in cloud adoption. After the assessment, you may choose to move forward with deploying a hybrid cloud solution and a migration planning engagement, which determines how to migrate your data to the recommended cloud solution.

A Strategic Approach to Cloud

As with any major infrastructure change, it will require planning and a good use-case analysis. In the case of the cloud, doing the discovery work of a Hybrid Cloud Assessment can save quite a few headaches in the future, as you'll better understand your current capabilities and what the optimal type of cloud, or clouds, will be. But most of all, taking the time to do a Hybrid Cloud Assessment helps align your IT strategies directly with the goals of your organization and arm you with the roadmap to move forward with confidence toward your hybrid cloud solution.

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