



Continuous Application Visibility is Key to Successful Cloud Management and Multicloud Governance

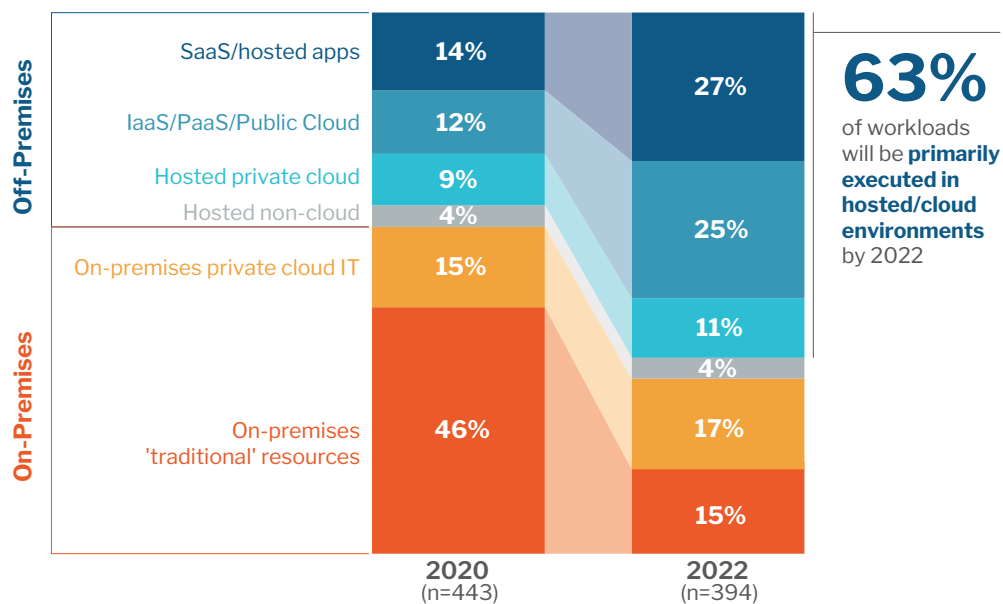
The 451 Take

Cloud migration is well under way and accelerating for enterprises and managed service providers worldwide. Most have identified cloud platforms and various cloud-native technologies as key to their digital transformation efforts, and a source of operational savings and performance improvements. Businesses responding to 451 Research's Voice of the Enterprise: Cloud, Hosting & Managed Services, Workloads & Key Projects 2020 survey expected the portion of their workloads primarily executed in cloud-based external environments to increase from 36% in 2020 to 63% in 2022. Moving this volume of workloads to hosted/cloud environments in such a short timeframe is driving a need for enhanced cloud governance.

Cloud Is Becoming the Primary Workload Execution Venue

Source: 451 Research's Voice of the Enterprise: Cloud, Hosting & Managed Services, Workloads and Key Projects 2020

Q. Which of the following best describes the primary environment used to operate your workloads/applications today? In two years?



The work of migrating, re-platforming and refactoring applications introduces a variety of governance and architectural challenges. And these challenges are becoming more acute as organizations move beyond the simpler undertaking of moving customer-facing applications and employee productivity tools into cloud environments, and begin to target complex, embedded legacy back-end systems like ERP, CRM, core industry-specific software and custom business applications for migration. The complexity involved in migrating and governing these systems is far greater and represents a greater risk to the business. A poorly executed migration can create ripple effects that impact or break other applications, cause massive cloud cost spikes and expose security vulnerabilities.

The success or failure of cloud projects is largely determined at the planning phase, and involving the right technology for discovery and creating accurate application and dependency mapping is critical to the success of the overall endeavor. Furthermore, having this complete view of the myriad of individual components that make up the applications enables a much more intuitive way to provide cost and security governance at the application level once in the cloud. Policies around spending and access control are more easily written and monitored when considering complete applications in the cloud.

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The 451 Take (continued)

Creating an effective cloud transformation plan by understanding the specific requirements and interdependencies of a given application and its numerous components also makes it easier for an organization to select the right cloud environments for applications based on complexity, risk and TCO. This is increasingly important as enterprises adopt multicloud strategies, multiplying the potential venues for execution. This last objective further underscores the need for a detailed understanding of application requirements and dependencies and comprehensive multicloud management.

As enterprises turn to running critical workloads in the cloud, the cost of failure increases, ranging from inconvenient (greater time to complete, added cost, overprovisioned workloads and insufficient governance) to catastrophic (application failure, major security issues, lost business or negative ROI for the overall project). It is critical that businesses put the right technology in place to ensure the success of cloud efforts.

Business Impact

FASTER DISCOVERY ACCELERATES CLOUD MIGRATION TIMEFRAMES. Automating the process of discovery significantly accelerates the planning and architecting phases of cloud migration, resulting in significantly reduced total project time. Business agility and a reduction in the time required to deploy applications are both identified as key cloud objectives by enterprises.

EFFECTIVE MAPPING OF DEPENDENCIES ENABLES PROPER GOVERNANCE. With the majority of workloads executing across multiple cloud environments by 2022, the need for multicloud governance is clear. The continuous accurate mapping of application dependencies enables a path to improved cost management and security posture management at the application level.

DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF APPLICATION NEEDS DRIVES PERFORMANCE. A detailed understanding of application requirements and dependencies lays the groundwork for an application-centric view of ongoing performance, cost optimization and governance.

DETAILED MAPPING ENABLES BETTER CLOUD SECURITY. Accurate application mapping is a critical piece of applying organizational security frameworks, including cloud identity and access management, and overall security best practices to applications being migrated to new platforms.

Looking Ahead

Despite the challenges involved, enterprises are proceeding with migrating increasingly complex applications to leverage the benefits that public cloud provides. The effectiveness of their planning will be reflected in the success of those efforts, not only at the deployment stage but in the ongoing governance, operation and optimization of those applications in cloud.

Even those enterprises that successfully migrate to the cloud face long-term challenges associated with governance, especially in the areas of controlling cloud spend and utilization, as well as the application of security policies, compliance and architectural best practices. Many discover that their efforts to manage these environments with multiple tools or DIY approaches are ultimately unsuccessful.

Application-level visibility is a critical element of cloud transformation projects and ongoing cloud governance. Selecting a broader platform for migration and governance enables significant benefits such as pre-established guardrails from day one when it comes to managing costs and security for applications in the cloud.



CloudSphere

At CloudSphere, we make cloud governance easy. Current approaches to controlling cloud spend, security posture and identity access are not scaling. Numerous cloud tools with disparate data formats are preventing the automation necessary to scale cloud usage with proper governance guardrails. Our platform controls the chaos of increasingly complex public cloud deployments with automation and intelligence that dramatically simplifies how operators govern access to critical resources, minimize security risks and manage spending in the cloud. [Click here](#) to see it in action today.