



Accenture Oracle Business Group

# To the multi-cloud and beyond

Multi-cloud is here: Are you  
getting the most value from it?



# One cloud no longer fits all

As the world grappled with the COVID-19 pandemic, cloud quickly became central to helping businesses navigate a time of exceptional challenge and change. Cloud platforms facilitated a massively accelerated shift to remote working, supported new customer demands, and sustained operations under severe disruption.

The past year has pushed cloud into the mainstream, and now organizations are making the next evolution in their cloud journey: adapting to a multi-cloud reality. Flexera's 2021 State of the Cloud Report found that 92% of organizations have adopted a multi-cloud approach, spanning an array of public and private cloud service providers (CSPs).

Using multiple clouds can bring compelling benefits, with enhanced workload performance, reduced service disruption and vendor diversification ranking high among them. However, if not planned properly, they can cause costs and complexity to soar.

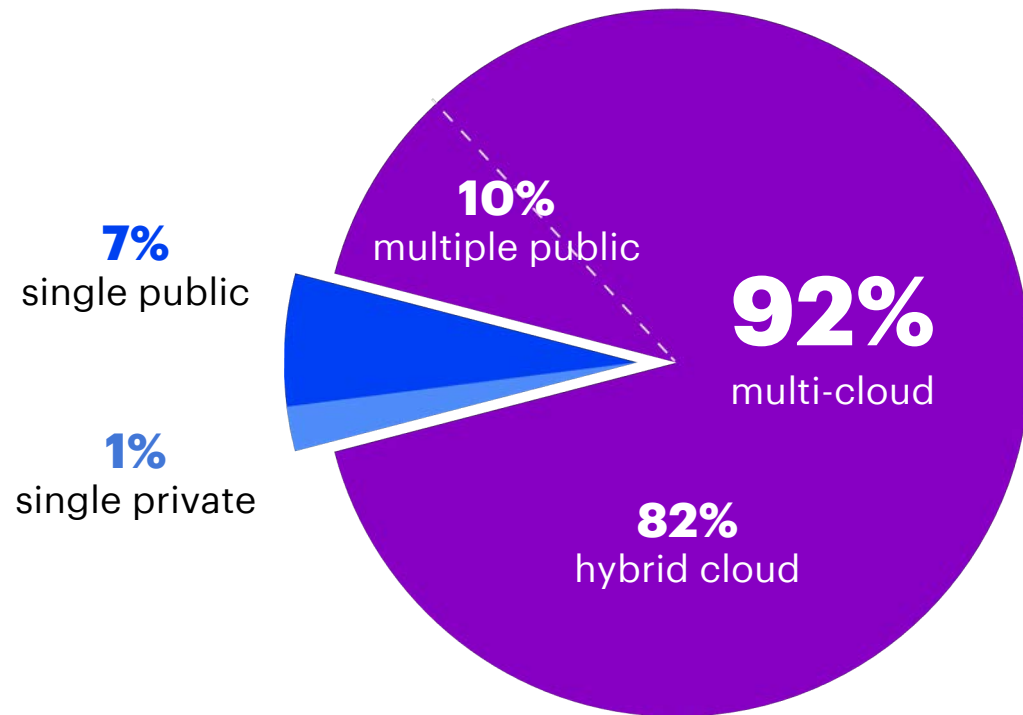
Most multi-cloud architectures arise organically, with different areas of the business deploying different clouds as new needs arise. Taking such a siloed, piecemeal approach to adoption limits scalability and makes cloud management difficult, leaving many businesses unable to realize the full value of multi-cloud.

For multi-cloud initiatives to succeed, interoperability is key—and this demands closer collaboration between CSPs. When cloud resources from multiple providers are connected, orchestrated and secured in a harmonized way, workloads run in unison to drive business agility, reduce the costs, and harmonize processes—making the multi-cloud a valuable place for businesses to be.

# Life in the multi-cloud

## Enterprise cloud strategy

% of enterprise respondents (N=750)



Source: Flexera 2021 State of the Cloud Report

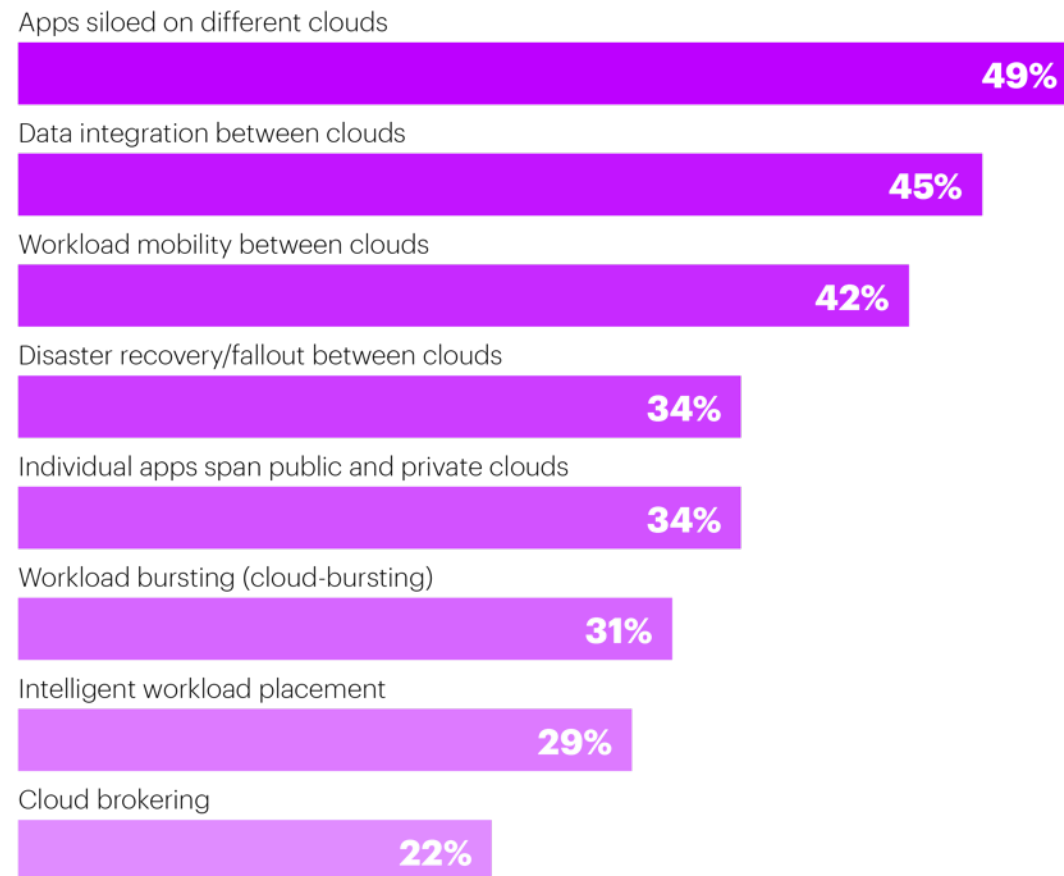
**We are living in a multi-cloud world, where most enterprises are using 5 different clouds on average.**



**While organizations are using multiple clouds, this doesn't necessarily mean individual applications are spanning clouds. Siloed apps on different clouds is the most common multi-cloud implementation. However, data integration between clouds is picking up pace and more than one third of respondents are also using more advanced architectures.**

## Multi-cloud architectures

% of all respondents (N=750)



**Source: Flexera 2021 State of the Cloud Report**

# Rise to new heights

**Multi-cloud adoption is taking off—and for good reason. Organizations stand to benefit on multiple fronts by making the jump to multi-vendor deployments:**



## Enhanced workload performance

Not all workloads perform equally on all clouds. Choosing a multi-cloud approach allows businesses to deploy workloads where they run most efficiently from both a price and performance perspective.



## Greater choice

A multi-cloud strategy enables vendor diversification and prevents lock-in. This gives organizations more flexibility, allowing them to take advantage of best-of-breed solutions that are aligned with their business objectives.



## Reduced risk

With workloads orchestrated across multiple clouds, businesses can reduce the risk of service disruption if one cloud goes down. A well-designed multi-cloud approach also helps to increase security, as each cloud provider delivers added security to handle the load of disrupted servers.



## More negotiating power

The ability to move workloads among different clouds puts organizations in a stronger position to negotiate favorable commercial constructs from preferred CSPs, helping to reduce costs and optimizing overall IT expenditure.



# Storm clouds ahead

**While using multiple clouds offers attractive advantages, building and running services across more than one cloud brings fresh challenges that need to be navigated carefully.**

**More to manage.** Multi-cloud architectures are more complex and, therefore, can be more difficult to manage. The more cloud platforms an organization has, the more people and tools it needs to manage them—and this incurs greater costs.

**Stuck in silos.** If different cloud offerings are adopted in an unsystematic way, companies can end up with workloads operating in silos. Data and applications cannot be migrated easily outside their platform stack, hindering the organization's ability to scale cloud adoption and realize the full business benefits.



## Data is the new center of gravity

The difficulty of migrating data between clouds poses perhaps the biggest barrier to a successful multi-cloud strategy. [A report by Omdia](#) revealed that the inability to move workloads between clouds is slowing cloud computing adoption among 52% of businesses surveyed.

This challenge arises due to a phenomenon known as **data gravity**. The idea is that data and applications are naturally attracted to each other, primarily because the closer apps are to data, the more they can avoid latency and increase throughput. It's similar to the attraction between objects that is explained by the Law of Gravity. As datasets grow larger (and gain more "gravity") they pull more applications, services and processing power into their orbit.

Consequently, as you amass more data in one cloud, and more of your apps and services rely on that data, it becomes increasingly difficult, not to mention costly, to move that data to another cloud. It's a vicious cycle that can impede companies from effectively operating a distributed architecture across multiple clouds.

However, data gravity doesn't have to be a dead end for multi-cloud adoption. With the right strategy—and partners supporting it—organizations can realize the key benefits of multi-cloud: sourcing best-of-breed solutions from trusted providers, architecting a flexible, high-performing digital infrastructure, and governing the entire landscape effectively.

Accenture offers a full spectrum of services to help companies maximize these benefits. We work with you to help your business capture the full value of cloud, leveraging our experience of over 34,000 cloud projects in nearly every industry with an unparalleled ecosystem of alliance partners. Here's how we can help you put cloud to work for your business with solutions from one of those leading providers: Oracle.





# Make your move

**Multi-cloud is here to stay. With the right alliance partners and solutions, you can make the most of its huge potential.**

The path to multi-cloud success isn't always straightforward, but businesses don't have to walk it alone. Organizations that make use of demonstrated multivendor solutions and leverage the experience of their partners will be best placed to build, migrate, and manage solutions that span clouds with ease.

Whether your business is already immersed in a multi-cloud environment, or just starting to test the waters, getting your strategy right is essential to unlocking the true promise of multi-cloud operations—greater resilience, more agility and fresh opportunities for innovation.



## About Accenture

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