AN EVOLUTION IN CLOUD STRATEGY:
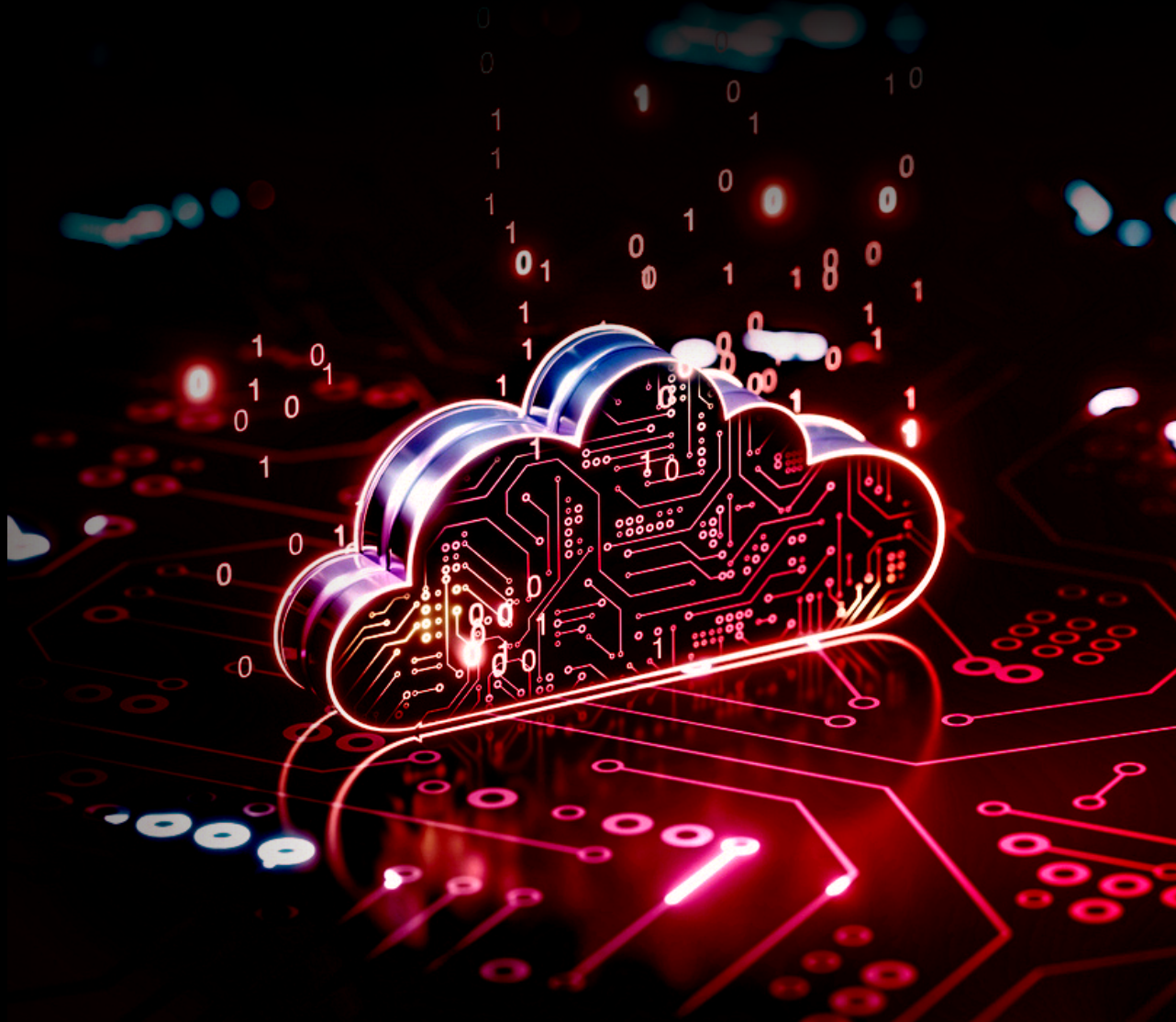
FINDING SIMPLIFIED OPERATIONS IN A HYBRID CLOUD ENVIRONMENT

The technology industry experienced the dramatic shift to public cloud as a cost-saving measure, and removing the burden of managing and maintaining data center assets freed up CapEx dollars and internal resources that could be applied to mission-critical tasks. However, for heavily regulated industries like Defense, Financial Services, Healthcare and Government, data management and sovereignty bear a bigger responsibility and organizations have to manage highly sensitive data, rendering public cloud too far of an extension for many.

This has sent the industry into a "refinement stage" for its cloud strategy. In a recent survey from Barclay, 83% of enterprise CIOs planned to repatriate at least some workloads in 2024, which marks a significant change since the 2020, when only 43% were considering repatriation. So what factors are driving CIOs to consider moving some workloads back on-prem and how can that be achieved without forgoing the cost savings that public cloud afforded.

AI and specifically Generative AI are a big part of the story, creating a need for greater control over corporate or government data so that it can be leveraged properly for better insights. Likewise meeting compliance standards including Zero

Trust imperatives and cybersecurity mandates are also a driver for IT leaders. Cost optimization is still an important factor and predictable budgeting has become more critical as organizations have found cost management a bigger challenge in the move to cloud. All things considered, this openness to repatriation is by no means a rejection of cloud, but more of an evolution in cloud strategy. So, where does that leave agencies today?

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What Federal Organizations Are Facing

Many organizations want the assurances of on-premises or co-located infrastructure, but they don't actually want to own infrastructure and ultimately want to get out of the data center business. However, it's difficult for leadership to determine how to address the organization's global needs of security, cost, resource management and opportunities for growth. Generally, leaders are looking for a true hybrid cloud operation to bridge deployment models and reap the benefits of each – this isn't a new concept – but how can agencies leverage hybrid cloud while at the same time gain simpler operations and financial models to make it more practical?

Getting the Benefits of Hybrid Cloud Without Sacrificing Visibility

Hybrid cloud environments combine the benefits of both public and private clouds, offering agencies a versatile solution for their mission. Here are some key benefits of using a hybrid cloud:
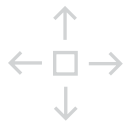
Flexibility & Scalability:

Resource Allocation: Dynamically manage workloads between on-premises infrastructure and public cloud services based on demand, cost, or security needs.

Scalability: Easily scale operations by leveraging the vast resources of public clouds for peak times or large projects, while maintaining critical applications in a private cloud or on-premises.

Cost Efficiency:

Optimize Spending: Use public cloud resources for non-sensitive, variable workloads to save on infrastructure costs, while keeping sensitive or steady-state workloads in a private cloud where costs are more predictable.

Avoid Overprovisioning: Right-sized deployments ensure ample capacity is always available without costly overspending up front.

Enhanced Security & Compliance:

Data Control: Sensitive data can remain within a private cloud or on-premises, where security can be more tightly controlled, meeting compliance requirements for industries like finance, healthcare, or government.

Regulatory Compliance: Easier to comply with data residency laws by keeping certain data in specific geographic locations.

Integration & Legacy Support:

Hybrid Applications: Allows for the integration of legacy systems with new cloud-based applications, facilitating a smoother transition to cloud computing without a complete overhaul of existing infrastructure.

Innovation: The ability to experiment with new technologies in the public cloud while maintaining stable operations in a private cloud.

Innovation & Development:

Testing Environment: Use public clouds for testing new applications or updates without impacting the production environment.

DevOps & CI/CD: Support for modern development practices by providing a consistent environment across development, testing and production phases.

Disaster Recovery & Business Continuity:

Redundancy: By distributing data across different environments, it is possible to reduce the risk of a single point of failure.

Quick Recovery: Public cloud can serve as an effective disaster recovery site, allowing for quicker recovery times compared to traditional methods.

Performance Optimization:

Workload Placement: Place applications where they perform best; latency-sensitive applications might remain on-premises or in a private cloud, while others leverage the global reach of public clouds.

Data Management:

AI, Analytics & Big Data: Use hybrid cloud for big data analytics where data locality to the application is important, while keeping sensitive agency data on-premises in a private cloud for security and internal Generative AI initiatives.

> **Implementing a hybrid cloud strategy requires thoughtful planning around data movement, security and management practices. But when done correctly, it can offer significant advantages in terms of adaptability, efficiency and competitiveness.**

Getting the True Value of Hybrid Multicloud Rests in Simplified Operations Management

When IT environments offer a common operating model across edge, data center and public cloud, it opens the doors to implement AI-driven operations across the entire ecosystem. A unified operating platform that offers a standardized process for running applications and data can increase infrastructure resiliency and reduce the risk of unexpected downtime if a hardware component fails. It greatly simplifies IT operations and reduces the complexity in many functions, including provisioning, operational management, self-service, resource allocation, cybersecurity, data protection and disaster recovery.

Combining Right Fit Technology with Flexible Financial Model

For agencies that are repatriating workloads from public cloud or looking for a more agile environment with the security they need, Nutanix provides a unified technology stack that facilitates hybrid cloud. In the sprint to regain predictable budgets Red River has partnered with Nutanix to help organizations realize all of these benefits with a cloud-like subscription model, providing our customers with a true hybrid cloud offering with full visibility into operations and a predictable cost model.

The Red River & Nutanix Difference

Nutanix's industry-leading Enterprise Cloud Platform is enabling thousands of organizations to run their apps and workloads with unparalleled performance in whichever cloud makes sense — private, public or edge. The Nutanix Cloud Platform delivers hybrid cloud agility that can be deployed within one hour and scale infrastructure in minutes at the edge, data center, private and public cloud without disruption. With Nutanix applications and workloads move easily between environments, delivering agility to meet evolving priorities and mandates.

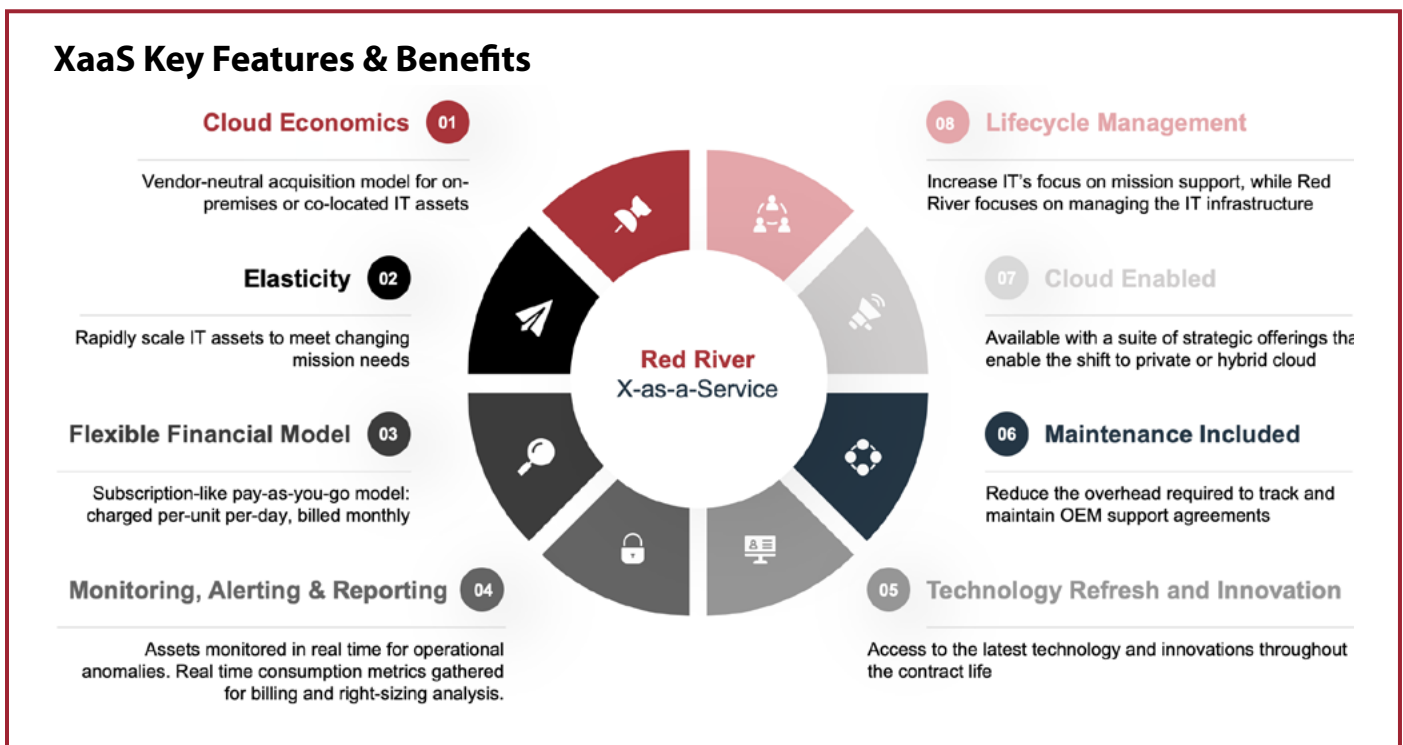Nutanix offers a software-defined, unified data services platform consolidating file, object and block storage into a single platform that includes compute power and eliminates complex silos. With simplified data management, analytics and integrated ransomware protection, it addresses key security concerns for agencies, allowing leaders to manage and control all data types residing at edge, on-premises or in the cloud with one consumption-based, flexible license.

Nutanix software licenses move with the organization, reducing costs and purchasing complexity. Agencies can deploy applications and databases in minutes and dynamic allocation of resources on-demand, reducing maintenance cycles.

Red River's as-a-Service delivery model accelerates IT transformation and enables organizations to transfer the complexities and risks of traditional IT investments to a service provider with specialized expertise. This approach helps leaders mitigate financial risks and improve operational agility, while allowing their staff to focus on the mission outcome.

Nutanix's enterprise cloud platform combined with Red River's as-a-Service delivery model gives organizations a cloud-like IT subscription for both on-premises and public cloud resources, providing predictable budgets and easy access to additional capacity. This approach addresses the industry's challenges around large capital expenditures and improves operational agility, giving leaders access to next-gen Nutanix cloud technology with the security needed to manage critical data.

XaaS Key Features & Benefits

Cloud Economics 01
Vendor-neutral acquisition model for on-premises or co-located IT assets

Elasticity 02
Rapidly scale IT assets to meet changing mission needs

Flexible Financial Model 03
Subscription-like pay-as-you-go model: charged per-unit per-day, billed monthly

Monitoring, Alerting & Reporting 04
Assets monitored in real time for operational anomalies. Real time consumption metrics gathered for billing and right-sizing analysis.

Red River
X-as-a-Service

08 **Lifecycle Management**
Increase IT's focus on mission support, while Red River focuses on managing the IT infrastructure

07 **Cloud Enabled**
Available with a suite of strategic offerings that enable the shift to private or hybrid cloud

06 **Maintenance Included**
Reduce the overhead required to track and maintain OEM support agreements

05 **Technology Refresh and Innovation**
Access to the latest technology and innovations throughout the contract life

For more information on leveraging unified cloud management platforms in an as-a-Service delivery model, contact us info@redriver.com.