5 ways to get more from your cloud

As the world becomes increasingly dependent on technology, businesses need IT environments that can quickly adapt and deliver new services, and their expectations are growing. Adopting cloud services will help you fuel business growth and innovation—helping ensure that you maintain your technological and competitive advantage.
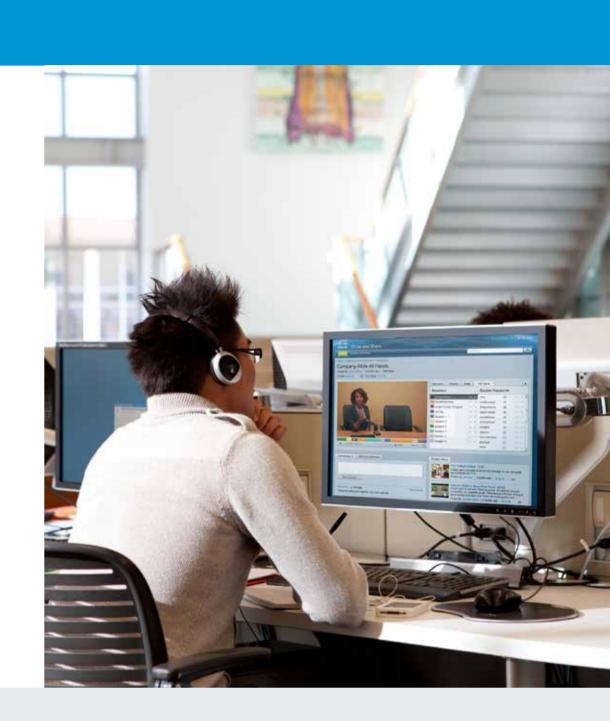
Cisco UCS® with Intel® Xeon® processors

When considering their primary cloud platform, most enterprises (46 percent) and small and medium-sized businesses (41 percent) prefer an internal private cloud—one that they own and manage.
– "Business Technographics Global Infrastructure Survey," Forrester, Q3, 2014.

1. Develop a strategy.

You must first gain full visibility over your organization's adoption of cloud services, associated costs, and risks before you can build a plan based on your organizational objectives. Your plan should be comprehensive and able to deliver a broad cloud strategy that promotes innovation while increasing operational efficiency.

2. Choose a private cloud consumption model.

You should integrate automation into your IT environment at a pace that's comfortable for you. Cisco offers flexible private cloud management capabilities and consumption models to match your financial, organizational, and data privacy needs, helping your IT department remain competitive and accelerate the delivery of business services.

3. Complement your IT environment with public cloud services.

Use of ready-to-consume public cloud services (infrastructure, platform, and software as a service [IaaS, PaaS, and SaaS]) with a distributed architecture can vastly improve the agility of your IT department. With our broad partner ecosystem, you can add public cloud services when business demands it, without being slowed down, locked in, or limited.

37 percent of organizations are currently using or have firm plans to consume public cloud services.
– "CloudView Survey," IDC, 2014.

4. Expand to hybrid cloud.

Find the right balance. Combine the control, security, and performance of private clouds with the scale, economics, and speed that public clouds can offer. Cisco Intercloud Fabric helps you build a hybrid cloud that's open and highly secure and that operates as one unified environment—with you in control.

55 percent of the organizations surveyed have plans to adopt hybrid clouds during the next two years.
– "Cloud Segmentation Global Study," Cisco, Aug. 2014.

5. Simplify service delivery.

Import from a global cloud marketplace the cloud services that you need for your on-premises IT environment. Act progressively as a broker of IT services by integrating, aggregating, and customizing the delivery of IT and business services to meet the needs of your business. Cisco Cloud Consulting Services along with the services of our partners can guide your cloud journey.