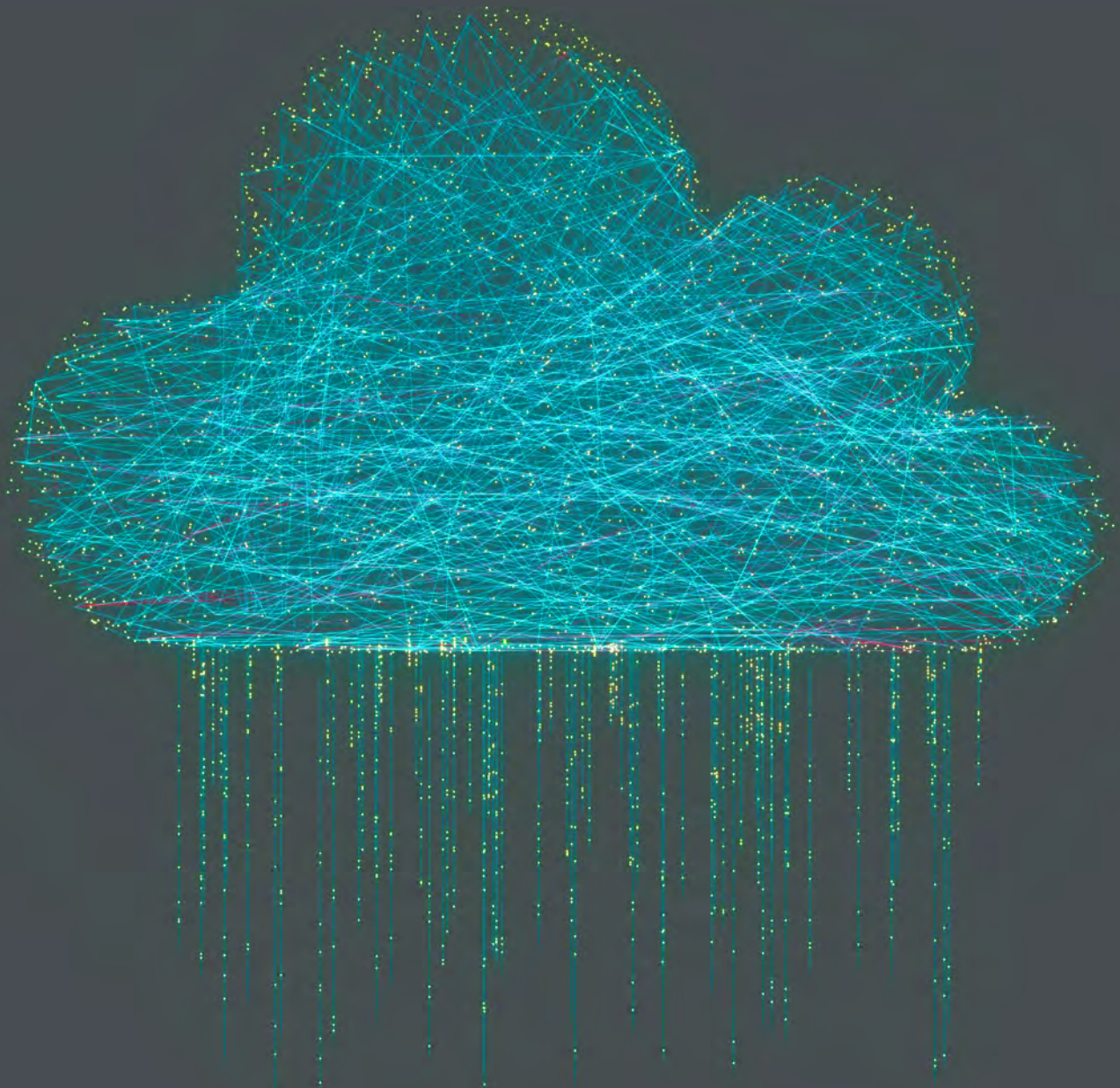


3 POINTS TO FOLLOW TO ADOPT A SUCCESSFUL HYBRID MULTI-CLOUD STRATEGY

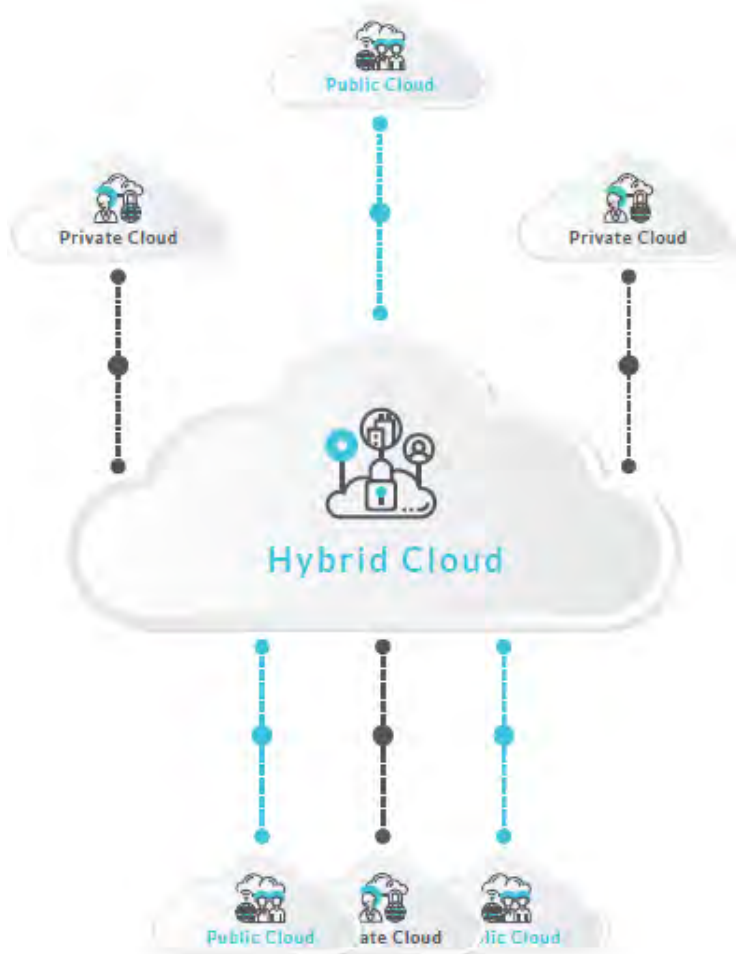


Learn how to tackle common storage challenges
to maximise your cloud benefits

As companies seek to implement multi-cloud strategies, IT storage can often become the biggest obstacle in their pathway. Mismatched vendor technologies, multi-vendor complications, and inadequate features are just some of the obstructions imposed by storage landscapes.

Often, we rely on software technologies to bridge the gap between inflexible storage hardware solutions and cloud platforms. However, the multi-cloud strategy as it exists today for most businesses can only be understood after overcoming the conventional legacy infrastructure challenges.

And that's why so many organisations decide to deploy a reliable hybrid multi-cloud strategy that provides common management capabilities across discrete clouds and on-premises data centres. This allows them to bridge silos and provides them with a collective set of tools and procedures, eradicating complexity that impedes IT processes. The outcome? A shorter learning curve for new users and quicker time-to-value.



Multi-Cloud, Hybrid Cloud

But before you launch your hybrid multi-cloud strategy, there are three critical challenges you need to address first.

1 **VENDOR INCOMPATIBILITY WITH A MULTI-CLOUD STRATEGY**



One of the biggest challenges when implementing a

multi-cloud strategy is vendor incompatibility. Different cloud storage systems provide APIs but they are often mismatched with one another. This results in complex migration between back-ends, making it problematic to integrate data spread across several sites.

The solution to this vendor lock-in is to choose cloud platforms that follow common standards.

In order to integrate effortlessly into a single environment, storage systems must be attuned across clouds. This means that these systems must include similar data structures and enable integration with similar tools.

Consider using a platform that supports advanced cloud features and functionality on legacy storage like IBM Spectrum Virtualize.

This will allow you to seamlessly migrate data between on-premises and public cloud data centres or between public cloud data centres.

It will also empower your data centre administrators to reduce compatibility issues between their systems by grouping computer, network, and storage modules into a single IT management entity.

2 CENTRALISING AND UNIFYING MIXED STORAGE TECHNOLOGIES FOR SIMPLIFICATION

When using mixed storage technologies, it can be challenging to manage and integrate all the tools and systems. That's where storage virtualisation comes in, making it possible to decrease costs and complexity while allowing you to centralise management to streamline mixed environments and discover hidden capacity.

When you have to implement new technologies such as Flash, storage-class memory (SCM), containers, and hybrid multi-cloud while enhancing your data security and efficacy, it's not a feasible solution to replace your existing infrastructure.

You need to be able to streamline the management of your storage infrastructure with tiered storage and advanced functions. One of the ways to do that is using IBM SAN Volume Controller with IBM Spectrum Virtualize, which will allow you to:



Embrace existing storage by pooling it with new storage capacity, so that you can simplify administration while enhancing efficiency.



Enhance your current storage and move active data to flash to significantly improve performance.



Extend current storage into new deployments like containers or hybrid cloud, thus preventing additional investment costs.

3 FIXING MULTI-VENDOR COMPLEXITIES

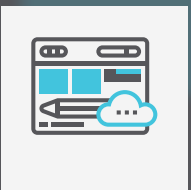
Working with multiple vendors can get challenging, especially when each of them follows a different set of standards and protocols. The key is to achieve integration. **Here are a few best practices for managing multi-vendor complexities with storage:**



Consolidate and normalise your view

Consider collecting information from various storage platforms and unifying them into a single interface or management suite. Even though storage solutions provide an adequate level of reporting, they usually don't offer a holistic view of numerous storage platforms.

You should look at using third-party software tools that can consolidate and normalise all of this data from a range of storage devices. A cohesive view will help the storage administrator comprehend how much performance and how much capacity is needed so that you can select the right storage system.



Enhance your storage assets

Unification of storage data into a single tool empowers the storage administrator to observe, volume by volume, the activity being needed of those volumes. As a result, they are better fortified with balanced workloads.

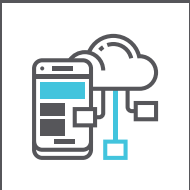
Moreover, a storage management tool that can see across diverse vendors' storage products can also report on free space. Owing to the virtual environment, it's comparatively easier to move workloads between storage systems without disturbing users.



Unify monitoring

When managing a mixed storage vendor environment, it takes a lot of time to get familiar with the system to ensure that it's working properly. Your storage manager may have to work for hours on a daily basis to make sure there are no issues.

With the unified storage management tool alarms, you can set a threshold to notify the storage manager in the event of any issue. This not only saves precious time but also allows you to instantly take remedial action.



Introduce operational vigilance

With a consolidated view of the storage infrastructure that's modernised in near real-time, the storage manager can cultivate a history of information that empowers them to more correctly forecast prospective storage trends.

A storage management tool helps you learn how to use the existing storage budget to purchase less capacity but more performance. A faster performing system will then result in easier everyday system management as it can eradicate the continuing task of performance modification.

ABOUT BLUE CONNECTIONS IT



No matter where you are on the journey to simplifying your IT storage landscape and/or how far you are from implementing a multi-cloud strategy, we can help.

Blue Connections provides best-in-class IT solutions to Australian federal and state government agencies and organisations across industries. We empower our clients to drive better business outcomes by leveraging innovative technology solutions that are tailored to their individual needs, allowing them to concentrate on what they do best and not dealing with IT challenges.

Our portfolio includes designing, procuring, implementing, servicing and managing end-to-end technology solutions, with a special focus on networking, security and communication, infrastructure, virtualisation and availability, and cloud solutions. This includes delivering on-premises, public, and private cloud solutions based on your particular needs and requirements.



For more information on how can we help you with your storage challenges and/or launching your hybrid multi-cloud strategy?

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