



4 essential cloud project questions



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Plan your next cloud project based on your current cloud results

Cloud-based environments and technologies like containers, edge, and serverless computing have become more common to IT strategies. However, the importance of the operating environment for these projects is often overlooked. Because the cloud abstracts so many of the basic infrastructure considerations like storage, networking, capacity, and integration, many organizations approach these projects individually without having a clear strategy or guidance on what the operating environment should be.

For cloud projects and IT projects to hit their targets for efficiency, productivity, and user cost controls, IT leaders should evaluate the assumptions that underlie their project planning. The IT infrastructure, starting with the operating system (OS), itself, needs to result from clear, intentional choices. There are four areas where IT leaders can start evaluating their current environment and choices and start defining an IT strategy that can help inform future projects and prepare for success in a way that is consistent and less difficult for teams to understand, and designed to achieve their specific priorities.

1 Is your cloud adoption stalled?

The plan for adopting new technologies frequently does not represent the reality.

Organizations frequently adopt new technologies slower than they initially expected or in ways that don't match their initial strategy. One interesting aspect of the 2023 State of DevOps report by Puppet is that over 75% of organizations are largely stalled in adopting DevOps and related technologies—and have been for years.

To see if your cloud strategy is currently successful, first evaluate how your teams are implementing cloud projects:

- **Are you moving workloads from the cloud back on-premise?** Nearly a third of organizations do, either re-architecting workloads (20%) or moving cloud workloads into a datacenter (28%).

- **Are you multi-cloud or hybrid cloud?** Only 20% of customers have a planned hybrid cloud strategy,¹ but the average organization is using 2.3 different clouds.²

- **Are you using containers (and how)?** Containers are assumed to be used for microservice development, but about 52% of organizations are using containers on virtual machines (VMs) that host monolithic applications.

- **What criteria do you use to select an OS?** Standardization is the preferred method to maintain manageability in hybrid environments, however many organizations fall into having different systems for different environments, such as development versus production or in different clouds.

2 Are your current cloud projects successful?

About 65% of cloud projects fail to obtain expected project results.

Failure does not mean that the projects were not launched or did not accomplish some goals. However, these projects missed some or all of the targets in key areas, usually falling short in the very reasons that cloud was adopted to begin with.

¹ Puppet, "2023 State of DevOps Report," Aug. 2023.
² Forrester Insights, sponsored by Red Hat, "2023 Linux Market Study," April 2023.
³ Forrester, "2023 State of DevOps Report," Jan. 2022.
⁴ Forrester, "2023 State of the Cloud Report," 2023.
⁵ Aberdeen Research report, "Cloud Migration Survey: Expectations, Reality," Jan. 2020.

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