

# Understanding Today's Cloud Migration Capabilities

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Cloud migrations are a big part of the IT conversation for many of today's companies, **and with good reason.**

Already, the cloud has transformed business operations. Companies flocked to it, revamping their own processes and workflows with cloud-based technologies. Many businesses quickly became multi-cloud environments. According to IBM, this includes 85 percent of enterprises.

These companies know that the cloud offers a ton of practical benefits. Sadly, the same study found that only 41 percent of these organizations have a plan for managing the multi-cloud environments they've already embraced. It's not hard to imagine ballooning cloud use becoming a problem for some companies. When there's limited visibility or no overarching plan, waste can occur.

Relying on multiple servers or cloud providers without a set plan may strain your budget and make keeping track of your cloud use an impossible task.

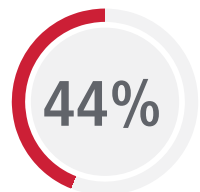
Thankfully, getting more from your cloud use is possible. Here's why it matters and how to get started.



## When to consider a **second migration**

The potential of cloud technologies led many companies to enthusiastically adopt new applications, services, and data collection methods. Generally, these cloud subscribers see tangible benefits and operational improvements when they put the cloud to work inside their organizations.

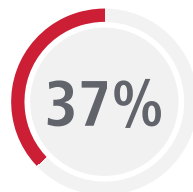
That said, there's still more to do before you can realize the cloud's full potential. Benefiting from the cloud is an ongoing process. It requires continuous improvement. Migrating to the cloud isn't always a one-time project. A majority of the organizations undertaking a first migration do a second migration later. According to one study, 83 percent of companies have already completed a secondary cloud migration. Here are the primary reasons these companies cited for switching cloud providers, as reported by CompTIA:



Better Features



Improved Security



Reduced Costs



More Flexibility/  
Open Standards

In other words, better features, more control, and other operational reasons are why businesses leave their original cloud providers.

### The Rise of **Cloud Confusion**

As cloud use proliferates without strategic planning organizations, overall cloud spend and cloud confusion grows. Cloud confusion occurs when companies lack real visibility into their own cloud usage.

Cloud confusion presents very distinct symptoms as it spreads from individuals and departments outward to the entire organization.

**Consider these common warning signs:**



- **No centralized plan** - With more cloud migrations and deployments comes more confusion as each department independently decides to implement cloud solutions.
- **Security challenges** - Each system may have different security, creating a patchwork of independent security strategies.
- **High infrastructure usage** - If you're using multiple servers for the same work that could be done with one server, then your infrastructure spend greatly increases.
- **Costly** - Higher costs involved with securing and managing various systems can strain your budget and hamper your organization's efforts at restricting spending on IT resources.
- **Higher administrative burden** - Keeping track of several distinct systems becomes a challenge for each department.
- **Oversight is more difficult** - It's more challenging to enforce departmental budgets and important corporate strategies.



### Reduce complexity in cloud deployment

Also known as storage convergence, storage area consolidation (SAN) can help your company generate savings and strategically reduce complexity in cloud deployments.

Complex and nuanced cloud deployments make it more challenging for organizations to oversee and maintain their cloud use. By consolidating your cloud usage, you can empower your company to strategically manage these deployments.

- Operational advantages - Less data center power consumption, more rack space, less cabling
- Potential savings - Lower costs, fewer unused or forgotten subscriptions, less resource usage, and more efficient allocation of team members





### 4 quick competitive advantages of cloud-computing:

- Reduce costs and align expenditures with business needs.
- Accelerate rollout of strategies and services to meet customer needs.
- Remove geographic constraints
- Higher service availability and advanced disaster recovery options.

### Staying **competitive**

Cloud consolidation gives your organization the chance to unlock improved cloud capabilities. You can minimize waste and increase efficiency within your organization; and from there, you can start to see the true benefits of cloud technologies. Without a thorough plan, you risk falling short of what the cloud is capable of and missing out on significant opportunity presented by today's applications and data. Keep your organization competitive by utilizing the cloud strategically.

Managing your current cloud spend requires careful examination and strategy. If you're planning a self-audit of your cloud usage, the following page has a checklist with some areas you'll want to consider. Be sure to get each department on board with this analysis - it's not uncommon for each division to have their own favorite apps and storage use. The checklists divide cloud usage into two categories: basic and advanced cloud usage. Your organization may have opportunities to improve efficiency in one or both areas. Consider using these lists to put together your own plan of action to guide your upcoming cloud migration decisions.



### Consolidation Basics

It's important to know all the XaaS (everything as a service) applications and systems in use within your organization. Without visibility in this area, it's tough to manage infrastructure and application spending.

Use this checklist to review your current application and infrastructure spend:

Find out if different divisions and departments have their own solutions.

List all apps used to store and manage data and search for redundancies.

Review productivity and communications tools, including but not limited to:

- Email
- Calendar management
- VOIP

Determine whether or not you're creating redundancies in disaster recovery by backing up using different cloud providers with differing capabilities.



### Advanced Cloud Consolidation

With increasing complexity, consolidation becomes more challenging. Migrating your communication platforms, data protection, and data management systems may sound simple when you take on the daunting task of migrating your more complex workloads. Large, sophisticated databases with multiple touch-points and large amounts of data sitting in storage can be more difficult to migrate. This is particularly true if you have a multi-cloud environment pieced together.

Once you've covered the basics of cloud consolidation in your organization, consider how these areas might apply:

ERP

Accounting

CRM

Document Management

EHR/EMR (Healthcare)





Learn more about managed cloud services including public, private and hybrid hosting options as well as disaster recovery as a service at [Ricoh-USA.com/ITServices](https://Ricoh-USA.com/ITServices).

### Final Thoughts

Whether your own move to the cloud leverages an on premise solution or the infrastructure of a vendor, you can expect the migration to affect how your people work together, in powerful and lasting ways. But with smart, strategic guidance — including a robust change management plan — you can fundamentally shape what your new cloud-enabled culture looks like, and ensure a smooth transformation.

Ricoh can help your organization can realize the opportunities of cloud — quickly and affordably.