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The Multi-cloud Trend: What does it mean for businesses

Posted by **Misty Faucheux**

July 22, 2013 | [Cloud Server](#)

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Multi-cloud has become a recent buzzword within the cloud computing community. A multi-cloud solution is similar to a hybrid cloud solution, except it has some key differentiators. A hybrid solution can involve any combination of public or private cloud, managed hosting and colocation, or other arrangement, working in tandem with the other. A multi-cloud solution, however, includes one or more public cloud solution and one or more private cloud solution.

With multi-cloud, you may have several IaaS and SaaS solutions combined with multiple private cloud platforms. This makes for a more complex and possibly robust cloud computing platform, and the trend towards using multi-cloud is growing. According to a [recent survey by RightScale](#), 75 percent of organizations say that they are looking at a multi-cloud platform for their cloud computing solutions.

Multi-Cloud Concerns

One of the major drawbacks of multi-cloud platforms is that while they

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are more complex, these platforms may not add any additional value over a standard hybrid cloud platform. Further, you usually can't get all solutions from a single vendor. This means that organizations will be contracting with several different vendors, forcing them to manage several different contracts and deal with the different vendor quirks.

Plus, many in the cloud-computing business are suspicious of multi-cloud platforms. They fear that it's just a trend that isn't sustainable over the long-term.

Another major issue with the multi-cloud platform is that you're not computing under a [set of standards and interoperability](#). This means that you can't easily move workloads between different cloud platforms and vendors.

Multi-Cloud Benefits

Proponents of multi-cloud, however, see this is as a long-term solution to mitigating risk in the cloud. According to an [article in Computer Weekly](#), a multi-cloud approach can actual reduce the risk of losing data since your data is not only spread across multiple data centers, but multiple cloud service providers. It's extremely unlikely that multiple cloud service providers would experience a data center outage at the same time.

Another major benefit of the multi-cloud theory is that customers can have their choice. One cloud service provider may have the best IaaS platform, but another provider may have the best-priced SaaS applications. This choice gives consumers the freedom to find what best fits their needs. (Savvis Cloud recently partnered with several different SaaS and IaaS providers to give you more choices. Learn more about the [Savvis Ecosystem here](#).)

Is it here to stay?

Many businesses see great value in the multi-cloud solution, especially when it comes to business continuity and avoiding data loss. Relying on a single-source provider definitely increases overall risk, and many providers don't serve every geographic region. Obtaining public and private cloud solutions for at least two service providers keeps your risks down to a minimum.

So what do you think? Do you think that multi-cloud is here to stay? Will your business consider using it in the future?

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