WHAT’S THE FUTURE OF CLOUD FROM AN IT PERSPECTIVE?

Spiceworks surveyed 150 IT professionals to explore their current cloud practices, pain points, and desired solutions, here are 5 things we learned.

1. HYBRID CLOUDS ARE A HOT TOPIC

More than half (56%) of IT pros opt for a hybrid approach to data storage, where they store data both on- and off-premises. But what data goes where?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Business-critical</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cloud</td>
<td>31%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Most IT pros prefer to keep business-critical data on-premises, while clouds are used for:

- Cost savings (41%)
- Increased security (45%)
- Increased availability/reliability (47%)
- Improved speed/performance (53%)
- Improved storage capacity (41%)
- Legacy practice (41%)
- More cost-effective (49%)
- Easier to monitor/manage (49%)
- More secure (54%)

In fact, IT pros said they prefer on-premises, and shut down hybrid altogether.

2. SECURITY IS THE BIGGEST CONCERN

Why aren’t more workloads placed in the cloud? 49% of IT pros cited security as the greatest challenge.

- 58% currently use or plan to use a direct, private cloud network (through a provider)
- 82% currently use or plan to use a direct, private cloud network (through a 3rd-party data center)
- 68% currently use or plan to use a direct, private cloud network (through a 3rd-party data center)

For secure connectivity without any hiccups, IT pros are exploring new options—reaching beyond the “open” internet and VPNs.

3. IT’S TIME TO THINK BEYOND VPN

Aside from reduced costs, IT pros seek cloud network providers that deliver fast, secure, private access to critical applications, effectively bypassing the internet.

4. PRIVATE CLOUD CONNECTIVITY IS HIGHLY ATTRACTIVE

IT pros recognize that direct, private connections to the cloud can deliver huge advantages, including:

- 55% improved security
- 45% better access/performance
- 47% improved availability
- 41% faster time-to-market
- 45% reduced risk

For IT pros needing to balance cost-effectiveness with increased reliability and security, Comcast Business is here. Direct2Cloud from Comcast Business enables secure, direct access to leading cloud environments from almost any location.

5. THE RIGHT NETWORK PROVIDER DELIVERS PEACE OF MIND

Aside from reduced costs, IT pros seek cloud network providers that deliver fast, secure, private access to critical applications, effectively bypassing the internet.

For the full results of the Spiceworks survey and how Comcast Business can help, read the white paper.

READ THE WHITE PAPER