

Put Yourself on the Path for Innovation

In support of evolving mission sets and rising expectations, government agencies need an IT infrastructure that enables them to modernize and innovate. To that end, a cloud-based approach can:

- Help agencies more effectively meet the demands of internal users, delivering ready access to the tools they need to do their jobs
- Reshape interactions with external constituents by enabling mobile and self-service options and other capabilities
- Provide future-proofing, with the flexibility and scalability needed to adapt to changing mission requirements

But there are challenges along the road to cloud-centric modernization. Government needs to have a solid strategy in place in order to move effectively. That's the focus of this report.



Crafting a Cloud Strategy

Agencies might encounter a number of hurdles as they move to the cloud. They might face technical challenges as well as process-oriented obstacles that add costs and complexity to their migration efforts. With a robust cloud strategy, IT leaders can help drive the process forward.

Here are the top obstacles to cloud adoption:

→ **Unrealistic cloud expectations:**

Organizations may run into trouble if they approach their cloud initiatives thinking there will be easy and automatic workload migrations between providers. It's common to underestimate the complexity of an initial cloud migration. Cloud is complicated, as it tasks technology teams with managing not just data and application migrations, but also issues around security, governance and multi-cloud management.

A next-gen IT strategy helps here. It will likely include an assessment of the current state, roadmap planning exercises and the build-out of a foundation to enable a smooth migration. A solid strategy empowers agencies to migrate, modernize and ultimately innovate in the cloud.

→ **Not considering workload**

dependencies: In addition to technical dependencies — the underlying hardware and software resources — workloads have other dependencies as well. IT teams need to think about data flow in and out of the system, for example, to ensure optimal performance.

Agencies can address this by leveraging tools such as Power BI to generate deep system insights. They can create interactive dependency diagrams that offer dynamic dependency mapping from multiple application, host and server perspectives.

→ **Failure to prioritize key workloads:** An agency may not take the time to identify and prioritize those workloads that are most suited for cloud migration. By treating all workloads as essentially equal, they may miss an opportunity to optimize certain applications, or fail to give sufficient attention to their highest-value processes. Agencies need information and insight in order to effectively prioritize their efforts.

Analytics and workflow alignment tools make it possible to determine the best migration strategy to follow, helping agencies understand the current workload landscape, uncover unknown dependencies and get a granular picture of compatibility by application. Agencies can leverage these capabilities to assess the technologies in use today and determine their compatibility with the desired end state, while also collecting data about the application portfolio to determine an appropriate migration strategy.

“Organizations may fail right away if there’s a wide gap between their initial expectations for cloud and the reality they face.”

– John O’Shaughnessy, Insight

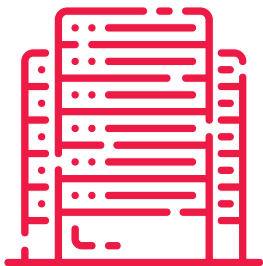
Best Practices in Cloud Migration



Workload Discovery and Alignment

What's in your IT environment, and is everything in its optimal place? To move forward effectively, agencies need to undertake workload discovery and alignment, a rigorous process of understanding what their essential processes are and where they belong.

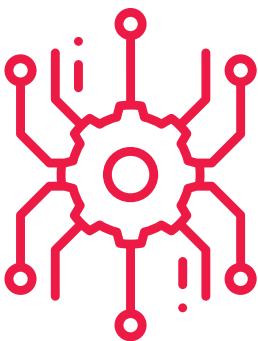
In general, the best location for each workload is the one that meets most or all criteria determined by the business. Understanding your environment on a strategic level is key; it starts with asking the right questions: What are our users' needs? What would be required to re-platform a workload or set of workloads? What information is most valuable to us to drive purposeful transformation?



Data Center Realignment

IT leaders need to take a hard look at their data center investments in terms of both cost and resilience. They can look to data center consolidation to reduce costs and simplify maintenance. Or they can consider moving to a new data center or colocation facility to find the right blend of costs, scalability and performance.

"Increasingly, a thoughtful analysis will lead agencies to migrate to a cloud or hybrid cloud infrastructure," said John O'Shaughnessy, Consulting Architect at Insight. "A hybrid cloud strategy gives access to public cloud services that support innovation and data-centered development — while providing security for workloads that are subject to regulatory oversight or have particularly sensitive data."



Automation and Modern IT Operations

Successful transformation isn't just about what's in your technology stack — it's also about how you are orchestrating its components. Failing to pay close attention to workflows can completely jackknife the success of a transformation initiative.

Automation can help agencies ensure a smooth process and successful outcomes. When used effectively, automation can increase productivity and efficiency, lower costs and improve consistency.

Some of the top areas of IT automation include infrastructure deployment, disaster recovery, resource provisioning and data protection. Modern IT operations that embrace automation can help ensure a better balance between innovation and governance on the path to transformation.

Use Cases Driving Cloud Adoption

A number of compelling use cases are driving federal leaders toward cloud infrastructures:

- **Obsolescence:** In many cases, legacy infrastructures are no longer serving agency needs. IT leaders need greater scalability and flexibility to support emerging mission requirements.
- **Need for innovations:** Governments are looking to modernize, both in support of agency employees and in response to rising citizen expectations. From mobile solutions to self-service tools, cloud supports the innovations that are redefining government interactions.
- **Long-term planning:** Agencies need an IT strategy that meets the needs not just of today but also tomorrow. The scalability and flexibility of a cloud-centric infrastructure is a forward-looking investment. It ensures the agency will be able to adapt to emerging mission requirements.

“Agencies want to plan for the long term to establish infrastructure that will continue to meet needs and support innovation well into the future.”

– John O’Shaughnessy,
Insight

How Insight Helps

With a full suite of cloud services and deep expertise, Insight helps organizations enhance their IT infrastructure to support key business objectives. Insight can assess and modernize aging systems and increase efficiency in the data center and the cloud. Organizations lean on Insight’s strategic expertise through every stage of cloud adoption — from architecting to deployment, security, management and beyond.

To learn more, visit www.ips.insight.com/en_US/public-sector.html

