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HYBRID AT HYPERSPEED: CLOUD STRATEGY FOR THE NEW REALITY OF GOVERNMENT

Only 30 Percent of Government IT Leads say Their Hybrid Cloud Strategy Has Kept Pace with Accelerated Adoption due to COVID-19

Alexandria, Va., February 10, 2021 – MeriTalk, a public-private partnership focused on improving the outcomes of government IT, announced the results of its new research, “[Hybrid at Hyperspeed: Cloud Strategy for the New Reality of Government](#).” The study, underwritten by NetApp, is based on a survey of 300 Federal, state, and local IT leaders and explores the challenges and opportunities of hybrid cloud environments within this new era of government.

In light of the pandemic, government agencies adopted hybrid cloud environments at unprecedented speeds. The research shows 92 percent of Federal and 79 percent of State and Local IT managers agree a hybrid cloud environment is the ideal operating system for a resilient government, with 85 percent saying COVID-19 amplified the importance of migrating, and 67 percent saying it accelerated their organization’s adoption by a year or more. But now, agencies must build a strategic foundation to ensure long-term success.

Today, warning lights are going off for many public sector organizations because, despite valuable progress, the majority – 61 percent of Federal and 57 percent of state and local IT managers – feel they are not yet getting the most out of hybrid cloud. Even though 77 percent of public sector organizations have noted having a formal hybrid cloud strategy, only 30 percent feel it has kept pace with accelerated hybrid adoption due to COVID-19.

The survey found that three-quarters, 75 percent, of IT managers wish their organization would have constructed a more thoughtful data strategy before migrating. The number one challenge of hybrid cloud adoption? IT leaders say it is managing and securing data across

environments (56 percent). When designing a hybrid cloud strategy, few IT managers considered how to make policies cohesive between the cloud, edge, and core (31 percent), how frequently teams need to access their data (34 percent), and how clearly teams can see and use their data (35 percent).

“There are great reasons to use hybrid, and we have several hybrid solutions with more on the way,” said Brian Merrick, director, cloud programs at U.S. Department of State. “For us, they’ve delivered more immediate value from existing data sets without having to pay the cost of fully re-platforming.”

The majority of public sector hybrid cloud users agree, with 84 percent reporting improvements in their ability to meet the mission. Four out of five have also experienced enhancements in employee productivity and the quality of citizen services.

Looking ahead, respondents noted several benefits that they expect from hybrid cloud – primarily, increased flexibility and agility (41 percent), improved cybersecurity (40 percent), and improved data availability and interoperability (38 percent). And, organizations do not need to navigate this new reality alone.

“The pandemic has brought challenges we’ve never seen before,” said Steve O’Keeffe, Founder, MeriTalk. “To adjust to this new reality of government, Federal, state, and local organizations need to design a more comprehensive data strategy. They can do this by leaning on partnerships with cloud specialists to help control costs and optimize performance.”

“The public sector has seen accelerated digital transformation in 2020, with organizations forced to be more agile this year than any in recent history,” said Michelle Rudnicki, vice president of public sector, NetApp. “At NetApp, we’re helping organizations to build their data fabric, to realize the full value of their data and to unlock the best of cloud to deliver services and applications anywhere, anytime.”

To download the full report, please visit: <https://www.meritalk.com/study/hybrid-at-hyperspeed/>

About MeriTalk

The voice of tomorrow's government today, MeriTalk is a public-private partnership focused on improving the outcomes of government IT. Our award-winning editorial team and world-class events and research staff produces unmatched news, analysis, and insight. The goal: more efficient, responsive, and citizen-centric government. MeriTalk connects with an audience of 160,000 Federal community contacts. For more information, visit www.MeriTalk.com or follow us on Twitter, [@MeriTalk](https://twitter.com/MeriTalk). MeriTalk is a 300Brand organization.

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