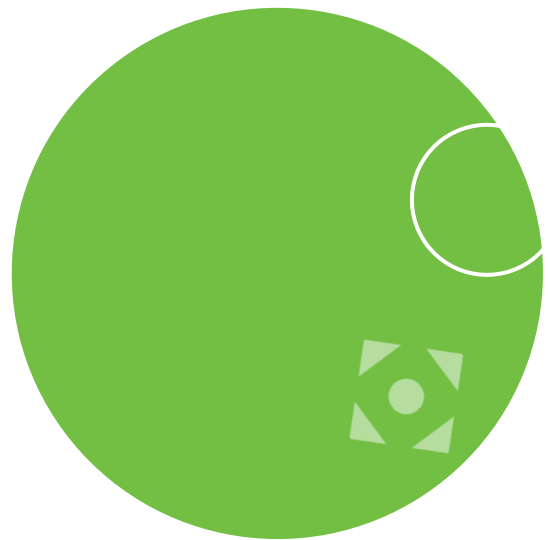




# How to Kickstart Your Cloud Migration Journey:

3 Tips and Tricks for Federal Agencies



Over the past year, cloud has proven instrumental in helping businesses and the federal government deliver services to constituents. However, a recent Deloitte study found 38% of agencies have yet to tap into the benefits of cloud. For agencies looking to move their applications to the cloud, here are some key considerations.

## Introduction

Cloud computing has proven instrumental in ensuring service throughout the pandemic. However, a recent [Deloitte study](#) found 38% of agencies have yet to move their applications to the cloud. As the public sector looks out at a “new normal,” cloud is guaranteed to play a role in how it provides services. So, for those agencies yet to tap into this technology, what are some key factors they should keep in mind?

That was the question James Forrester, vice president and worldwide technical leader for cloud sales at VMware, explored during a recent webcast that highlighted the benefits of multicloud environments. Over the course of 30 minutes, Forrester and Nextgov’s James Hanson discussed the definition of cloud, the advantages and disadvantages of cloud and how ultimately a multicloud environment can help federal agencies deliver on mission-critical operations. Here are three key takeaways from their conversation that can help your agency kickstart its cloud migration journey.



# 1

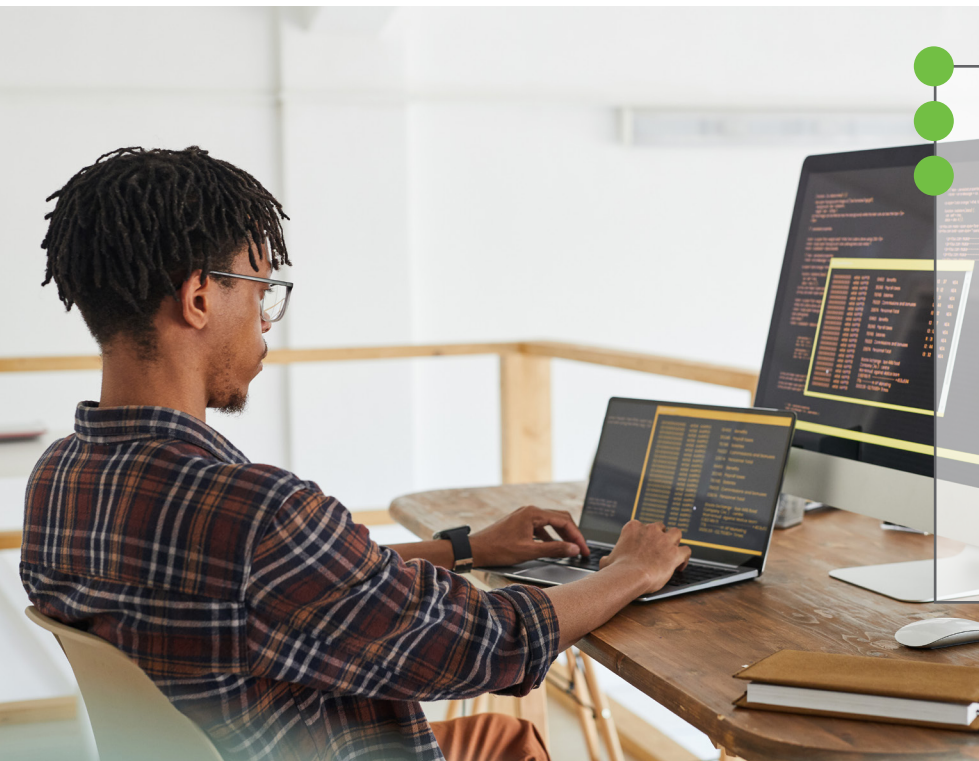
## Avoid over-analyzing application portfolios

At the moment, one of the most popular cloud migration strategies within the federal government is “move and modernize.” Frequently, agencies apply this approach to their entire portfolio, poring over hundreds or thousands of applications to determine which would benefit from migrating to the cloud. Although analysis is important, Forrester recommends agencies steer clear from getting “too deep into the weeds,” as this can quickly devolve into overanalysis.

“Usually, what I see is that customers will spend a great deal of time assessing their environments and assessing their full portfolios to try to understand which parts of their environment can move most quickly,” he said. “Oftentimes, that assessment process can bog down a migration.”

To start, agencies should look at moving applications already modernized or nearly modernized. Selecting applications ready for cloud migration can expedite the migration process as agencies move what needs to be moved and modernize what needs to be modernized.

“Pick the workloads that are going to get the best benefits, modernize those that need to be modernized, move those that need to be moved,” Forrester explained.



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*James Forrester, vice president and worldwide technical leader for cloud sales at VMware*

## 2

### Don't Focus on Just One Provider — There's a Whole Market out There

One of the most common errors industry leaders like Forrester see is agencies often select a singular cloud provider for their entire portfolio.

“What I see is that customers will try to zero in on a single cloud provider and then fit their applications to that single cloud provider’s specific set of technologies,” Forrester said. “More often than not, there’s a lot more complexity to that . . . and often the web of dependencies that a particular application might have . . . make the journey that much more complicated.”

Although picking a singular cloud provider can provide agencies with ease of access, the complexities mentioned by Forrester frequently outweigh the benefits, especially if agencies have to reconfigure their applications to fit a specific provider. Complexities from reconfiguring applications can range from simply introducing bugs into the system to more serious issues that could take an application offline.

**“ For many of us in the cloud world, security is job zero. The key there is that customers can take advantage of those tremendous investments in security that are occurring across the board, in terms of securing the platforms themselves, that these applications run on.”**

*James Forrester, vice president and worldwide technical leader for cloud sales at VMware*

Before agencies embark on their cloud migration journey, it's important IT leaders select multiple potential partners that can help get applications up and running, minimizing application reconfiguration, in turn creating a multicloud environment.

“For many of us in the cloud world, security is job zero,” he said. “The key there, I think, is that customers can take advantage of those tremendous investments in security that are occurring across the board, in terms of securing the platforms themselves, that these applications run on.”

### 3

## Prepare to Join Forces with Industry Experts

In the wake of recent high-profile cyberattacks, the question on every IT leader's mind might be, "How can I secure my agency's data stack?" Luckily, agencies that have moved to a cloud environment have the backing of not just one team but two, Forrester said.

"The more levels of the stack that the customer has to manage and secure themselves, the harder it is for customers to be able to do that," he said. "Whereas if you've got an army of folks working on your behalf and whichever cloud providers you're working with, we're focused day in and day out on making sure that the environment is secure."

In addition to ensuring a cloud environment is secure, industry experts can also work alongside agency IT leaders to promote increased resiliency.

"One thing that cloud makes much easier is to have effectively, a gold master copy of every aspect of your environment," Forrester said. "Whether it's the virtualized hardware, the applications running on it, that data that works with those applications and networking configurations, you have a snapshot of that that you can roll back to at any time."

Ultimately, although the cybersecurity landscape is constantly changing, agencies that seek to forge partnerships with industry not only better position themselves to respond to future threats but poise themselves to uncover the keys to a successful multicloud migration.

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