Top 5 Use Cases for Moving to a Hybrid Cloud Solution

Introduction

Cloud computing offers compelling benefits for IT and the business to gain on-demand access to IT resources for new application development as well as for running existing applications.

VMware® vCloud® Hybrid Service™ is a secure, dedicated infrastructure-as-a-service hybrid cloud owned and hosted by VMware, built on the trusted foundation of VMware vSphere®. The service supports existing applications and new application development, giving you a common platform for seamlessly extending your existing data center to the cloud while leveraging the same tools and processes you use today.

Early cloud adopters have found success in moving development and testing to the cloud. It’s an easy, fast, and cost-effective way to get on-demand capacity for a limited time period. But other workloads may also be good candidates for hybrid cloud computing. Depending on your specific requirements, consider evaluating the following types of workloads to move to hybrid cloud:

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<th>Five Business Issues to Extend the Data Center to Hybrid Cloud</th>
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<td>1. Flat or declining IT budgets</td>
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<td>2. Securely add capacity on demand</td>
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<td>3. Risk mitigation of natural disaster or technical failure</td>
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<td>4. Limited IT staff and resources to accommodate growth</td>
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<td>5. Speed deployment of new products and services</td>
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Use Case #1: Packaged Applications

With flat or declining budgets, IT departments are facing a rising challenge of quickly adding capacity on-demand to meet business-critical requirements or free up existing resources for higher value projects.

An effective way to meet this challenge is to migrate standard packaged applications, such as email and collaboration software, to a hybrid cloud. But in many cases existing applications must be rewritten and reconfigured for a public cloud platform.

vCloud Hybrid Service supports the thousands of applications and dozens of operating systems certified to run on vSphere, so you can run your existing applications in the cloud with no changes required. This addresses a major shortcoming of many other cloud providers’ offerings: the requirement to re-architect packaged applications and configurations to run on that cloud provider’s specific platform. With vCloud Hybrid Service, you don’t have to rewrite or re-architect existing applications and you get the same level of security, availability, and performance that you already get from your onsite VMware infrastructure.

CUSTOMER SNAPSHOT: GREENPAGES

GreenPages will use VMware vCloud Hybrid Service as a high performance infrastructure for production applications while maintaining the same level of performance, availability, and security required.

“What I am looking for in a hybrid cloud is the ability to easily move workloads and view all clouds within a single management pane. vCloud Hybrid Service will provide me the ability to extend our private cloud out and utilize it for a secondary site.”

-Matt Mock, IT Manager, GreenPages, Inc.

Use Case #2: Web/E-Commerce

Web and e-commerce applications, such as online retail stores, are often 3-tier applications requiring public-facing web assets outside the firewall and business-critical assets onsite. When delivered as software-as-a-service, these types of applications can potentially cause security risks to enterprise information and customer data if proper compliance and controls aren’t implemented. They also typically require dynamic and unpredictable resource requirements, which can be difficult to plan for when hosting in your data center.

vCloud Hybrid Service delivers a secure, cost-effective, and easily scalable platform for deployment of web and e-commerce applications. vCloud Hybrid Service is built on a seamless virtualized network that’s quickly customizable to support your application and security needs. You can stretch your Layer 2 and Layer 3 networks seamlessly from your data center to vCloud Hybrid Service without the need for manual configuration changes. Network virtualization enables you to configure your firewalls and network as if they were in your own data center, so you can replicate the network your applications need to operate. You can also leverage your existing IT policies to meet all security, compliance, and control requirements.
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Use Case #3: Backup/Archiving/Storage
Businesses must mitigate the risk of natural disasters or technical failure, or they risk losing critical business assets. A single site IT deployment makes companies vulnerable to service disruption, but it can be difficult for companies to justify the capital expense or the management burden of completely replicating their production environment to a second site operated by their own IT staff. Public cloud options can help offset the expenses of a secondary in-house infrastructure.

Built on vSphere, vCloud Hybrid Service offers automated replication, monitoring, and high availability of your applications. You can use remote storage to provide a lower-cost backup facility, which can be leveraged in the event of service disruption.

CUSTOMER SNAPSHOT: FORCE 3
VMware vCloud Hybrid Service will provide secure capacity-based computing for the disaster recovery options that Force 3 offers its customers.

“vCloud Hybrid Service can greatly reduce IT capital expenditure by removing the need for a remote offsite location for DR operations. IT departments can simply scale up the capacity during disaster operations, greatly reducing the operational cost for maintaining DR site.”

-Sam Lee, IT Director, Force 3

Use Case #4: Enterprise IT/Outsourced Data Center
The need for data center space continues to grow. Many companies are exploring outsourcing data center functionality to avoid building a new data center and all of the associated costs and requirements. Public clouds are a cost-effective option to meet the needs for more capacity without incurring additional capital expenses.

vCloud Hybrid Service provides the on demand capacity and scalability you need to quickly react to changing requirements for IT resources. You can allocate and provision resources when and where you need them. A common, unified management platform enables you to administer the entire hybrid infrastructure -- data centers and public cloud -- with a “single pane of glass” management framework. It’s the same VMware technology you know and have come to rely on, providing the same agility, automation, and standardization you demand for operational efficiencies.

CUSTOMER SNAPSHOT: CITY OF MELROSE
The City of Melrose is using vCloud Hybrid Service to cut costs by offloading test and development environments and creating new revenue streams by hosting Microsoft® Exchange™ on behalf of neighboring towns.

“What I am looking for in a hybrid cloud is scalability, compatibility, integration and familiarity of management. vCloud Hybrid Service will provide a great up-to-date test environment that can easily be converted to production.”

- Colby Cousens, System Administrator, City of Melrose

Use Case #5: Development/QA/Test
Developers need an agile, flexible, dynamic environment for developing and testing software applications. Moving application development and testing to the cloud has clear benefits, including cost savings and increased time-to-market. But in some cases, developers are forced to learn a cloud service provider’s tools. And the service provider’s platform may not be compatible with existing IT investments, making it difficult to move applications back in house if needed in the future.

Built on the foundation of vSphere, vCloud Hybrid Service leverages the same platform you already run internally, enabling you to leverage your existing investments, processes, and expertise to lower your cost of ownership. Seamless interoperability gives you the freedom to quickly deploy dev/test workloads to the cloud, with the flexibility to move them back onsite as your requirements change.

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Conclusion
vCloud Hybrid Service gives you the choice to deploy applications in the best location to meet your security, performance, and availability needs, along with the ability to seamlessly move your applications among your onsite and offsite environments.

Get Started
To learn how to get started, visit vcloud.vmware.com or contact VMware sales for more information.