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Foreword

Delving into a digital-first future

Every organization is now defined by the digital services they deliver. From engaging customers with new experiences to building new revenue opportunities and driving digital-first touchpoints that protect and enable customers and communities, these services have never been more essential.

For more than a decade, organizations have emphasized the importance of technology in reshaping business processes and models. They’ve also recognized the need to redefine how they interact with customers and markets anywhere in the world. Now more than ever, the focus is on acceleration, and even more on impact. Every organization needs to move faster. COVID-19 may not have created digital transformation, but the pandemic certainly increased its urgency.

As part of VMware’s work with technology decision-makers globally, we’ve spoken with leaders and experts from more than 1,200 organizations about their goals, challenges and successes. Through this research, a clear picture of market priorities emerges, including how organizations are building for the future and the major challenges they experience and overcome along the way.

A core focus on cloud

Not surprisingly, 71 percent of VMware customers surveyed are prioritizing and expanding investment in digital-first models of engagement for customers and employees. Technology leaders are on a path to reinvent their business. With this comes a clear expansion in core cloud and modern app investments, as well as a shift in IT operations.

Cloud has already redefined the relationship between IT and the business, accelerating the delivery of new services and bringing unprecedented innovation to developers. It has forever changed the way business services transform from inspiration to reality, as well as how we unlock insights from a vast expanse of data. Perhaps most importantly, cloud has helped us move faster. It is a true accelerant for innovation.

These benefits are among the reasons why 71 percent of organizations surveyed are increasing their reliance on cloud. Buoyed by accelerated migration, cloud deployments are expected to outnumber on-premises deployments in the next three years. Yet cloud and modern apps are intrinsically linked. Apps will continue to grow in vast numbers—by 28 percent over the next three years. They will increase in complexity, diversity and strategic value, too. Clearly, a new model of cloud infrastructure is required.

More than half of organizations dramatically increased reliance on distributed processes due to COVID-19.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>72%</td>
<td>Remote workforce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>71%</td>
<td>Public cloud</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58%</td>
<td>Modern apps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51%</td>
<td>SaaS</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Moving ahead with app modernization

Even more impactful is the shift in how applications are being built or modernized. Organizations have stated that 68 percent of upcoming application deployments will take advantage of modernization initiatives. The apps powering business systems need to evolve to power the business goals of tomorrow. This modernization is pervasive. Technology decision-makers anticipate modern apps will grow at 20 percent on average across the cloud and data center by 2024, surpassing traditional apps.

But transformation isn’t happening fast enough. While expectations are high, efforts are slowed or stalled by the complexity of existing apps; interdependencies with existing infrastructure; diversity across public clouds; and silos of infrastructure, operations and security. Nearly every organization can feel the tension between the opportunities tied to transformation and the daunting challenge of how to achieve it.

This report explores the keys to unlocking opportunities with greater impact, faster than ever.

46% of organizations expect to add more cloud environments by end of 2021.

By 2024, more than half of all apps are expected to be modern apps.
Market forces

The new, distributed, multi-cloud era arrives

Along with dramatic growth in cloud services, the market is also experiencing a fundamental transformation. Today’s cloud infrastructure is increasingly distributed. In fact, 80 percent of global organizations surveyed, based on an inventory of their app deployments, use a combination of public clouds, on-premises private cloud, and edge environments to deploy applications and data.²

This decentralized system of infrastructure resources will continue to grow, supporting performance requirements, data locality rules, and the now ubiquitous remote workforce. Yet, while it leads to new opportunities to meet the needs of apps and users, this distributed system also creates challenges for managing and securing apps across diverse environments.

Why multi-cloud?

In this challenging new era, organizations pursue multi-cloud strategies to:

- Support diverse business unit needs
- Leverage best-of-breed functionality
- Align apps to specific cloud capabilities from any cloud provider

80% of organizations have a distributed model for cloud apps across public, private and edge environments, and expect to support this combination in three years’ time.²

91% of executives agree their major app initiative in 2021 is to migrate and modernize legacy apps.¹
Goals for an app-focused future

Build modern apps at speed
To do this, you need capabilities and tools, such as the right infrastructure, an agile DevSecOps team, and low-code platforms.

Run on cloud, data center and edge
By 2022, three quarters of enterprises will deploy a unified management system for clouds, networks and data centers.3

Gain enterprise resiliency, security and operations
Focus on untangling the complexity of multi-cloud by unifying all environments for consistent operations and security.

Expected application growth2

2021–2024

+28%
Total number of applications across all environments

+26%
Cloud-deployed applications

+20%
Modern applications
Market forces

The complexities of moving to multi-cloud

While organizations maintain high expectations for modern apps and a shift to cloud, significant challenges continue to hinder progress—from outdated and complex apps to the diversity of architectures across public clouds and the scarcity of essential skills. Here are three of the most common reasons why the move to multi-cloud is so slow.

1. Rigid, monolithic apps delivering enterprise services
   Keen to be free from the burden of legacy, monolithic apps, organizations rightly want to modernize them. Yet it’s not as simple as flicking a switch.

2. Costs, complexity and risk of refactoring apps for the cloud
   Each app has specific needs that make it suited for specific environments. But the architectural differences create significant challenges for migration. Migrating apps to cloud requires careful consideration about optimum environments and formats. According to VMware’s 2020 report, “App Modernization in a Multi-Cloud World,” 63 percent of organizations rate inconsistencies between clouds as one of their top challenges.

3. Scarce developer resources
   The IT skills shortage is well-documented. Even among organizations with three or more public clouds, a third (32 percent) cite specialized teams or skills as a challenge in managing multiple clouds.
Market forces

Three transformations powering app modernization

To advance their goals for modern apps, organizations increasingly pursue three fundamental transformations. These transformations deliver a range of benefits that:

• Reshape how apps are developed.
• Ensure high-quality code is delivered securely and with less risk.
• Ensure the underlying infrastructure is optimized for the unique needs of all apps.

See how VMware helps with these transformations.

APP

Application transformation

Embrace modern development practices, microservices and APIs, and enable a fundamentally improved developer experience, speeding innovation and business services.

-devcontainerized, indicating the cloud native movement has begun.²

DevSecOps transformation

Accelerate the path to new and modernized apps, and deliver critical business services to production faster, more securely and continuously. DevOps practices and continuous delivery help get higher-quality code to production faster and more frequently, with security integrated at every step and level.

Cloud infrastructure transformation

Redefine the foundation of IT with cloud capabilities and modern architectures that span the data center to any cloud and to the edge for all apps.

-of organizations surveyed use distributed cloud services to support their apps.²

28% of worldwide apps are now containerized, indicating the cloud native movement has begun.²

81% of IT execs are concerned about data breaches due to a wider distributed threat plane.¹

80%
The VMware vision

Delivering multi-cloud services for all apps

VMware has a unique vision for the cloud market. We believe cloud is less about where you run apps and more about how you deliver business innovation.

With this in mind, multi-cloud shifts from a source of complexity to a source of strategic advantage, where apps are built and deployed faster than ever with new capabilities continuously added. It’s an environment in which organizations have the freedom to deploy apps anywhere across a distributed cloud with the ability to move apps freely to the best cloud—all built on a secure, resilient foundation where all apps are protected, anywhere.

To deliver on this vision, VMware brings to market a solution built uniquely for today’s distributed, multi-cloud world. VMware Cloud™ delivers multi-cloud services that span the data center, edge and any cloud, including native cloud services. Optimized for both traditional and modern apps, VMware Cloud creates a single platform for all apps in any environment. It unifies all environments with consistent operations and security, delivering the enterprise reliability, resiliency and governance organizations need while significantly reducing total cost of ownership (TCO).

Why VMware Cloud?

37% increase in developer productivity, for a faster path to app modernization

Fast cloud migrations, reducing the time from years to months

82% increase in software to production through optimized DevSecOps

59% lower TCO, with the added benefit of enterprise security production

Proven enterprise capabilities to handle your needs

- 85 million production workloads
- 15 million total app workloads in the cloud
- Unique multi-cloud strategy
- Powerful distributed management, security and operations solutions
- 4,300 VMware Cloud Provider™ partners building public clouds using VMware technology

VMware Cloud
Delivering multi-cloud services that span the data center, edge and any cloud
The VMware vision

VMware Cloud: The optimal solution for app modernization on any cloud

Every organization manages a complex portfolio of traditional and modern apps. Each of these apps has unique needs along with specific value—now and in the future.

By proactively managing your portfolio and mapping each app to its own journey, you can set up the optimal environment while delivering key services that deliver the greatest impact from each app.

VMware Cloud is uniquely designed to help you accelerate the journey every app needs to take while also rapidly migrating and modernizing apps in any cloud.

- **Retain**
  Maintain apps in a highly virtualized data center to optimize architecture, security and performance. Modernize the data center environment to increase automation and evolve the core infrastructure platform.

- **Rehost**
  Migrate apps to the optimal cloud environment or edge with minimal rework. Match each app to the best environment and move seamlessly without the cost, complexity and risk of refactoring.

- **Replatform**
  Modernize apps using containers and Kubernetes. Replatforming is most successful with a standardized approach to minimize complexity and extend existing platforms, architectures, tools and skills.

- **Refactor**
  When building and rebuilding new and existing apps, harness modern app design, microservices and cloud native principles to scale services, accelerate development, and enable innovation.

- **Retire**
  For some apps, it simply makes sense to replace with software-as-a-service (SaaS) apps while supporting optimal user access, cost governance and security.

[Learn more about how VMware supports the five R’s.](#)
The VMware vision

Getting started

To help you take action, fast, VMware recommends building an application strategy focused on the app journey. We have the tools to help you get there.

VMware App Navigator

With VMware App Navigator™, you can:

• Gain complete visibility into your entire app landscape, and prioritize individual applications for migration and modernization.
• Rationalize your app portfolio to determine the optimal cloud environment, and better understand your options for rehosting in comparison to refactoring, including the architectural requirements and costs of each potential move.
• Build a plan for near-term and long-term action based on the value of applications to your business today and in the future.

VMware Success 360

Get to success faster on your app and your cloud transformation journey. VMware Success 360™ provides:

• Success planning to help you accelerate outcomes from your VMware technology investments
• Ongoing adoption guidance to optimize your use of VMware solutions
• Design workshops to explore new features and capabilities
• Dedicated and proactive support to predict and resolve issues before they impact productivity

VMware Cloud

Accelerating app modernization on any cloud

Traditional apps

Modern apps

Cloud management

Native cloud services

Cloud foundation

Native public cloud

Networking

Data Center

Edge
Ready to drive change?

Get in touch to schedule a VMware App Navigator assessment. Or, dive deeper into solutions demos and Hands-on Labs to explore VMware solutions at your own pace.

VMware Market Insights Report

References

2. VMware “FY22 H1 Benchmark, Cloud and Applications.” March 2021.

Research methodology

VMware FY22 Q1 Executive Pulse, January 2021

The VMware FY22 Q1 Executive Pulse study was fielded on behalf of VMware by Qualtrics between December 2020 and January 2021.

Custom research was conducted in the Americas (Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Mexico, U.S.), Europe (Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, U.K., Spain, Sweden, Russia), and Asia-Pacific (Australia, China, India, Japan, Singapore) using web-based surveys.

Responses were collected from 456 C-suite and senior technology decision-maker respondents involved in app and infrastructure platform decisions. The sample targeted 49 percent commercial (1,000–4,999 employees), and 51 percent enterprise (5,000+ employees).

VMware FY22 H1 Benchmark, Cloud and Applications, March 2021

The VMware FY22 H1 Benchmark, Cloud and Applications study was fielded on behalf of VMware by Management Insight Technologies between January and March 2021.

The custom research was conducted in North America (U.S. and Canada), Western Europe (U.K., Germany and France), and Asia-Pacific (Australia, New Zealand, Japan, India and China) using a combination of web and telephone interviews.

Responses were collected from 1,200 IT leaders, IT decision-makers, and developers who are knowledgeable about and involved in decision-making for cloud platforms. The sample targeted 13 percent SMB (2–999 employees), 33 percent commercial (1,000–4,999 employees), and 54 percent enterprise (5,000+ employees).