IDERA® | Cloud Whitepaper

5 MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT CLOUD MIGRATION

The popularity of cloud platforms continues to grow for a variety of reasons. For example, it allows organizations to pay only for the computing resources they use. Cloud computing is a rapidly maturing technology, but many misconceptions about cloud migration still exist. These misconceptions can lead organizations into jumping on the cloud bandwagon without fully developing their implementation strategy, leading them to regret their decision later.

The following list includes five of the most significant misconceptions about cloud migration.

1 YOU DON'T NEED A CLOUD EXPERT

Migrating to the cloud requires a deep understanding of the current application environment and the factors that affect the performance of those applications on a cloud platform. An expert partner is essential for identifying the specific technologies that will work for you as well as those that won't. Even if your own IT staff is great at what they do, they won't necessarily make the best decisions during migration if they lack in-depth knowledge about cloud computing.

Cloud-migration experts must be able to develop strategies for identifying problems caused by your data's change in location. They also need extensive experience in writing the custom scripts needed to scan configuration files and translate the current settings into the ones needed to run applications on a cloud environment.

Another benefit of the cloud is that providers handle more of the setup, deployment and administration tasks. However, there is a limit to what vendors can and will do, so you'll still need your own cloud expert to oversee them.

2 YOU WILL ALWAYS SAVE MONEY

The idea that cloud computing is less expensive than hosting applications in-house arises from the fact that a cloud platform relieves you of the obligation of maintaining your hardware. While this is true, moving applications to the cloud often requires significant manual oversight. This process often incurs a significant upfront expense, even if it saves money in the long run due to the reduction in maintenance costs.

Capital expenditure may not be your primary consideration when migrating to the cloud, but you should always perform due diligence to determine a realistic estimate of migration costs. It's also important to focus on how the cloud will help your organization reach its long-term business goals when pitching your plan to decision-makers. Additionally, you should determine if a cloud migration will allow your IT team to devote more time to other critical projects.

You may be tempted to use the cloud's scalability to quickly overcome performance problems rather than resolving their underlying cause. However, this approach can cause your cloud platform to use more computing resources than it really needs, including processing, memory, storage, and networking. Your system can thus become more expensive than a traditional on-premises option. Organizations can, therefore, save a lot of money on their cloud operations by properly managing their system performance instead of just upscaling resources.

3 ALL APPLICATIONS BELONG ON THE CLOUD

Some organizations decide to migrate all their applications in a single operation, which can be a highly challenging undertaking. However, this isn't necessarily the best option, since different applications derive different benefits from operating in a cloud environment. Operating entirely on the cloud may well be a worthy goal for your organization, but it's generally better to prioritize your applications and migrate them in phases. The strongest candidates for cloud operations are applications that would benefit from the flexibility of a cloud platform, especially those with large changes in workloads. Another strategy is to move the applications requiring the least amount of work first, allowing you to assess how well the cloud will work for you.

As mentioned above, system performance could become an issue, so evaluate your application performance as you add new databases and applications to the cloud platform. You may need to perform ongoing monitoring in order to catch potential issues as more assets are migrated.

4 YOUR CLOUD PROVIDER HANDLES ALL YOUR SECURITY NEEDS

Users often considered the cloud to be an insecure place that could never be as safe as your own data center during its early days. Cloud security has increased dramatically since then, but that doesn't guarantee the cloud will be more secure than hosting applications on premises. A good deal of the security risk that your cloud platform poses depends on the provider's strategies, which can vary greatly. However, you still need to take your own steps to ensure that the platform's security meets your standards, regardless of the provider's policies and procedures.

End users are often the weakest link in a computer system's security. In the case of a cloud platform, users include database professionals who aren't cloud experts yet. While they can set up shop in the cloud easily enough, this process can also quickly introduce security risks. Be sure you have a handle on how you will manage user security settings and audit user activity in your cloud environment.

5 THE MIGRATION WILL BE SEAMLESS

You may think that your operations will run smoothly after your applications are on the cloud, but the migration is unlikely to be your biggest challenge. Your users probably won't welcome this change if they've been doing things the same way for years, even if the migration will help your business in the long run. Obtain user buy-in early by communicating the benefits of working in the cloud before you start moving applications. Your users may be frustrated in the short term, but they're more likely to accept the migration if they understand how it will eventually make their lives easier.

Cloud computing provides a variety of benefits such as allowing businesses to scale their operations without the additional challenges of maintaining outdated hardware. However, this process requires you to avoid the pitfalls that can result from making assumptions about cloud computing and its ongoing operations.

A realistic view of your migration can help you realize the full potential of migrating to the cloud.

IDERA