

5 reasons governments are building cloud into IT modernization plans





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The imperative to meet high network-performance standards, manage costs and protect data is prompting governments to modernize their legacy systems and networks. Momentum is building within government agencies to address this challenge by migrating some operations to the public cloud. Nearly half (49 percent) of state governments have most of their systems in the cloud.¹ Additionally, 88 percent of city leaders cite the cloud as their most urgent priority for investment.²

The appeal of the public cloud is the easy access it provides to third-party hardware, software, servers and storage on a “pay only for what’s needed” basis. Since public cloud service providers (CSPs) can integrate with existing private networks, government agencies can improve, retire and replace portions of their IT systems to gain immediate network performance improvements.

Read on to discover five reasons why more and more government agencies are incorporating cloud into their modernization efforts and IT strategies.

1. Support growth

When government agencies migrate some operations to the public cloud, teams can increase their use of software and hardware as needed; it’s also often faster than a typical technology procurement process with layers of approvals. Forty-one percent of government CIOs cited “increasing flexibility/agility” as a benefit of cloud services.⁴

2. Increase productivity

Eighty-seven percent of government CIOs noted that the cloud has improved employee productivity by at least 20 percent.⁵ The public cloud provides tools to boost employee efficiency, as well as resources to help with data management. For example, agencies using IoT devices to monitor or automate controls can use cloud analytics tools to streamline data management and inform planning.

3. Provide on-demand access

Members of mobile or distributed agency teams and their partners need a secure way to access data and collaborate. Public clouds have applications and tools that can be used from anywhere. Easier access can lead to increased productivity and improved data capture.

4. Contain costs

Cost is a key challenge in improving network performance. The public cloud provides some relief by offering a “pay only for what’s needed” model. Agencies gain access to the technology services and applications they need, but without large, upfront capital IT investment and ongoing maintenance costs. In addition, since governments aren’t buying, configuring or upgrading the software and hardware, IT teams are free to focus on other priorities. In a recent study of government cloud use, 72 percent of state and local governments cite cost control as a cornerstone of their strategy considerations.⁶

5. Improve customer service and uptime

Constituents accustomed to speedy digital service put pressure on government agencies to provide reliable and consistent support at all times. Public, cloud-based hardware and software provide stable apps and tools without the costly and frustrating delays that can accompany technology breakdowns. While they do have downtime, they tend to be very reliable.

Making a smooth transition

Cybersecurity is a top concern for municipalities, even ahead of budgeting, customer service and other priorities, according to a recent National Association of State CIOs (NASCIO) survey.⁷ That's why your agency should carefully consider the connection it uses to the public cloud. Not all connections are created equal. A private, secure connection from your agency to one or more public cloud service providers reduces the likelihood of ransomware, distributed denial of service attacks (DDoS) and other intrusions.

Beyond being more secure, a private connection can help expedite the transition to the cloud and minimize work disruptions. A private, fast network connection from your existing network to one or more public cloud platforms means you'll be assured of high-performing, reliable bandwidth. This important detail will help you smoothly migrate and meet your agency goals.

[Learn more about government network modernization in our guide.](#)

1. "Half of U.S. State and Federal Governments Heavily Use the Cloud," Enterprise Cloud Solutions Review, January 6, 2021.
2. "Cloud is a key tool to take municipalities into the post-COVID future," American City and County, July 12, 2021.
3. Ibid.
4. "Hybrid at Hyperspeed: Cloud Strategy for the New Reality of Government," MeriTalk, 2021.
5. Ibid.
6. Ibid.
7. "State CIO Top 10 Policy and Technology Priorities for 2021," NASCIO, 2021.

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