
HITACHI VANTARA PERSPECTIVE

Achieve Hybrid Cloud Infrastructure Success for Competitive Advantage

Successful Hybrid Cloud Infrastructure With Improved Agility, Security and Manageability

There is unrelenting pressure for your company and especially your IT infrastructures to be faster, more agile, and cost-effective. That's just one reason the potential of hybrid cloud is so appealing. Hybrid cloud promises to satisfy just about everything today's companies need regarding their data. With hybrid cloud, your organization can meet your data creation, compute, storage, and management demands in multiple locations: on premises, at off-site facilities, and using public cloud hyperscalers.

The proposition is hard to resist. Who wouldn't want to shed the expense and overhead of building a new data center when the cloud can do it all? However, it's not as easy as it seems. In its reporting on the cloud migration opportunity, [McKinsey and Company found](#), "Cost overruns at a global level add up to well more than \$100 billion in wasted spend over the course of migration in three years. Left unchecked, those costs of moving workloads to the cloud could wipe out more than \$500 billion in shareholder value over the same period."

If you think that there are significant disconnects between hybrid cloud vision and reality — ***you are right!***

Executive Summary

The benefits of hybrid cloud are well known: increased business agility and competitive advantage, not to mention cost savings. But the path to get to a hybrid cloud infrastructure that works for your business is less clear. What stays on-site? What is moved to public cloud? Where will your data reside, and is it secure? How will you know? What skills do your IT staff need to successfully manage different data in different locations?

The good news is that there is a way for you to successfully implement your hybrid cloud infrastructure strategy.

The Hybrid Cloud Infrastructure Challenge

It turns out that quite a few factors stand in your way of achieving true hybrid cloud nirvana. Cloud hyperscalers make it incredibly easy to add compute and storage. As a result, developers are free to spin up new containers as needed, but rarely does anyone turn off the lights when they're done. Companies pay for more and more cloud resources, but, with no visibility or management across cloud platforms, companies don't know what they're paying for, which data has been stored in the cloud, or where that data resides.

Off-site facilities provide part of the answer by helping to address performance and cost issues, but comprehensive data management remains elusive. And particularly worrying is the potential exposure to hazards, such as ransomware attacks, which is inherent in a company's move outside the security and control of its own data center firewall.

For the hybrid cloud to work as intended, you must solve issues across many vectors: cost, performance, security, and management. Hitachi Vantara's new cloud connection strategy provides the path forward that's missing from many hybrid cloud strategies.

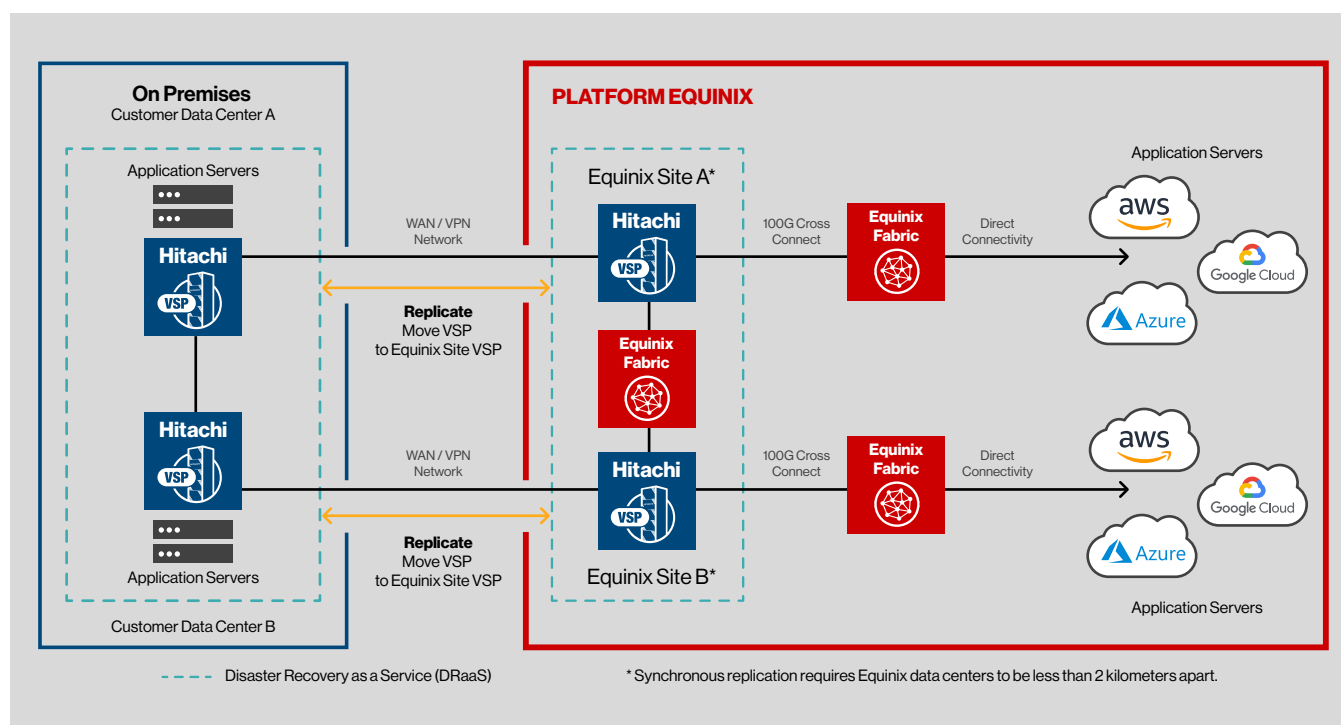


Figure 1. Hitachi Cloud Connect for Equinix

Given the lack of management tools, even companies that have the best intentions of controlling their cloud usage are stymied by a lack of knowledgeable staff. The Cloud Security Alliance, in its 2021 study titled "State of Cloud Security Concerns, Challenges, and Incidents," revealed that **"79% of respondents** reported staff-related issues, highlighting that organizations are struggling with handling cloud deployments and a largely remote workforce."

When something of value has been developed to suit a particular cloud, it may have to be refactored entirely to put it into production either on premises or on a different public cloud. There can be concerns around meeting your security and compliance standards. Substantial latency may create performance issues if your development remains in the cloud.

5 Top Hybrid Cloud Security Challenges

This CSOonline.com article by Bob Violina, January 10, 2022, lists the following as the top security challenges with hybrid cloud:

1. Increased complexity and decreased visibility.
2. Knowledge and skills gap.
3. Shifting security responsibilities.
4. Network protection mismatches.
5. Dispersed and disparate logging and monitoring capabilities.

Hitachi's Hybrid Cloud Connection Strategy

The proximity of the data to public cloud services such as compute combined with dedicated high-speed connections ensure the lowest latency, greatest performance and highest level of security possible. When it comes to off-site facilities, the trick to remember is that the deployment is only as good as the components a company chooses to install. That's why so many companies choose Hitachi Virtual Storage Platform (VSP), the gold standard of high-performance enterprise storage, when they shift compute and storage to leading off-site providers like Equinix, a long-time partner of Hitachi. Hitachi and our partners have been installing equipment and supporting customer needs at Equinix sites around the world for years.

Strategically locating your Hitachi storage within an Equinix International Business Exchange (IBX) data center gives you the flexibility of the public cloud with the performance, security, availability and control of your private storage. Equinix Fabric directly and securely connects distributed infrastructure and digital ecosystems globally on Platform Equinix via software-defined interconnection. The service enables you to privately locate your data on your Hitachi storage to gain the elasticity of public cloud compute while maintaining complete control of your data on your dedicated, high-performance Hitachi storage systems.

With the new Hitachi Cloud Connect for Equinix, you can deploy in the cloud the same enterprise-class security, reliability, scalability, and resilience that VSP delivers in your own data center. You get management, monitoring, and predictive analytic capabilities to properly control your entire storage environment, regardless of location. Even deployments that span multiple Equinix locations worldwide and a company's data centers are empowered to, from a single location, manage, monitor, and review information about all their environments, for better decision-making.

If you are a current Hitachi customer, this means you now have the same familiar VSP storage data management options in the cloud of your choice. Getting it up and running at Equinix is effectively the same as it is in your own data center. Hitachi storage at Equinix can connect to and replicate any VSP systems currently in an on-premises data center and vice versa. The storage at Equinix, using the world-class peering connections with all major hyperscalers, can directly connect to any public clouds your company uses, copying and moving data between storage arrays as needed, regardless of location.

“While the vast majority of companies cite achieving some level of their desired outcomes, on average only 35% of companies report they have fully achieved their expected outcomes across the four categories of cost, speed, business enablement, and service.”

Accenture, “Perspectives on Cloud Outcomes: Expectation vs Reality. A Global Survey of IT Executives” 2020

Read the survey 

Hitachi Cloud Connect for Equinix is a seamless pipeline between the cloud, Equinix, and your data center, with all the appropriate controls, separations, and connections needed to make the hybrid cloud perform within the company's expectations. Companies can realize improved performance from cloud workloads using Equinix direct connections to Amazon Web Services (AWS), Microsoft Azure, and Google Cloud Platform (GCP). Cloud Connect for Equinix also enables effortless data migration between cloud solutions.

Driving Enterprise Capabilities to the Cloud

These days, every board's first question about the cloud has to do with security. With Hitachi Cloud Connect for Equinix, IT leaders like you have the peace of mind only possible from choosing the gold standard for enterprise storage and data management. Hitachi Ops Center portfolio in conjunction with your VSP storage can provide ransomware mitigation that helps guard your most vital data assets. Hitachi Ops Center Protector orchestrates the copy creation and agile data movement between on-premises, near cloud, and public cloud environments to provide multi-use copies of your data. By creating an immutable storage environment, Ops Center Protector "locks down" your critical data snapshots, either in the near cloud or public cloud, to prevent deletion or damage from internal or external malicious threats.

Hitachi Cloud Connect for Equinix extends your trusted VSP capabilities beyond on-premises systems to include near and public cloud. Powerful, central operations management provides advanced AIOps for monitoring and automation across on-premises and near cloud environments. Hitachi

Ops Center gives you extensive monitoring and analytics for your on-premises and near cloud assets. Ops Center helps address mean time to repair (MTTR), increase operational efficiencies through automation, and drive greater resiliency through predictive and root cause analysis and automated remediation of network issues.

In short, Hitachi Cloud Connect for Equinix brings you closer to the vision of fully realized hybrid cloud IT operations by analyzing, managing, moving, and protecting vital data while driving greater resiliency, agility, and efficiencies back into your IT operations.

Learn More

Click here to learn the key elements of Hitachi Infrastructure Orchestration Platform and how its modular approach will reduce your operational costs and improve response while speeding your IT transformation.

WE ARE HITACHI VANTARA

Hitachi Vantara solves digital challenges by guiding you from what's now to what's next. Our unmatched industrial and digital capabilities benefit both business and society.

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