Moving Forward with ERP and the Cloud

Make your ERP stronger with **digital transformation.**

As CIO, you're surveying a rapidly changing IT landscape, where new hot topics and challenges pop up regularly. But you also manage an ERP system that represents decades of investment and that's critical for efficient operations.

What's your strategy going forward?

Some fundamentals:

- ERP is the core of your business system—and that won't change as you consider your overall IT strategy.

- ERP has strategic importance to your business. Are you getting the full benefit?

- ERP is a component in a broader IT strategy that includes such digital transformation pathways as mobility, the Internet of Things (IoT), and cloud deployment.

Digital of Applications Shadow IT Transformation with ERP

What if business users want more than what they can accomplish with budgets?

When users ignore internal IT and purchase cloud services directly, you risk:

- Deployment of applications outside IT and without approval

- Disconnect between IT and the business

To gain control, collaborate with the business side to identify and implement application requirements.

Evaluate IT strategy.

IT landscape has many moving parts, interdependencies, and players. Inventory your application portfolio to determine whether applications are:

- Strategic
- Commodity
- Legacy

By segmenting your application portfolio, you can build a strategy to:

- Protect and strengthen ERP investment.
- Embrace the opportunities in digital transformation.

Digital Transformation with ERP

Multiply the value of your ERP investment by digitally transforming your enterprise.

Achieve marketplace differentiation with:

- Mobility: Efficiency, cost reduction, flexibility

- IoT: Connected enterprise, real-time data driving business transactions

- Cloud deployment: Improved IT control, strategic deployment of applications, new capabilities

Control and competitive advantage
with ERP in the cloud.

You've evaluated your IT. You've watched your users reach for innovative solutions. But how do you choose the right direction and build the right strategy for your company?

Cloud deployment for your ERP is a strategic choice that could be:
• An opportunity for an organization to become more innovative
• A way to cut costs in the short or long term
• A first milestone in an evolutionary cloud strategy

The promise of the cloud is:
• Greater business agility
• Better use of resources
• More rapid implementation of new business models
• Lower capital expense
• Fewer operational issues

Business requirements aren't one-size-fits-all.
Find a deployment solution that **works for you.**

Private Cloud

Deploy your ERP system in a hosted environment, co-location, or with a private cloud provider data center.

Hybrid Cloud

Deploy your ERP across a combination of on-premise, private cloud, and public cloud.

Public Cloud

Deploy your ERP in a shared, public cloud deployment.

Using a hybrid cloud model for ERP deployment?
Here are some things to consider...

A hybrid cloud model combines on-premise, private cloud, and public cloud components into an optimal solution. Here are the next things to do when deploying your hybrid cloud ERP solution:

- **Security**: Ensure that users have access only to what they need, and ensure it is a consistent policy across the hybrid cloud.

- **Complying with regulations:** Confirm that vendors comply with your industry regulations and that your regression testing is in line with the upgrade schedule of your cloud provider.

- **Integration:** Ensure that hybrid apps support a common set of integration technologies. Evaluate impact of high latency on real-time integrations, and estimate the budget for maintaining the integrations that can change over time.

- **Data management:** Get a consolidated and consistent view of the enterprise data across the hybrid cloud. Budget the extra costs of maintaining multiple copies of the data. Avoid data leakage (replicated data is more susceptible to loss outside the organization).

- **Business continuity:** Align the version uplift schedule across the hybrid cloud environment (consider integrations, browsers, and mobile clients supported). Plan for coordinating the changes across multiple cloud environments to go-live simultaneously (some vendors may have a longer lead time than others). Update your business process documentation as it is circulated across multiple providers. Review your rate of change for cloud offerings and vendor landscape—for example, regression testing capabilities, and level of customizations and integrations.

- **Support and troubleshooting:** Confirm that the vendor SLA meets your internal agreement and requirements. Review that the hybrid cloud solution enables you to troubleshoot and resolve issues.