

On the cutting edge:

Multicloud vision with Keylane and IBM

Cloud computing once started out as a relatively simple proposition: providing on-demand availability of compute capacity and data storage resources without the user having to actively manage or own the related hardware and software. While this is still a driving factor for many consumer and business cloud propositions, the cloud game has gotten vastly more complicated and broad. Clouds are built on top of other clouds, which in turn connect to a different set of cloud services, resulting in a mesh of clouds across enterprises. In parallel, there is a high probability that your business still relies on on-premise solutions in some shape or form. IT management has to figure out and decide best practices when it comes to where your data lives, how accessible it is, and ensure proper security, governance and compliance in this increasingly hard-to-navigate environment.

Where hybrid cloud has long been seen as an ideal solution to ensure data quality, accessibility and security, the maturing market now offers additional opportunities to improve your operations across your enterprise. *Multicloud* is becoming increasingly popular as a way to ensure the availability of core IT platforms in a distributed

cloud, with the possibility of moving away from on-premise challenges completely. For Insurance and Pension industries, policy administration platforms are increasingly being optimised for a multicloud future, and this paper dives deeper into the implications and benefits of a clear multicloud vision.

Game-changing technology

CIOs and IT management in the Insurance and Pension space already see cloud as a “game-changing” technology. This is apparent through the vast increase in spending on cloud solutions, and a reduction of spend in physical infrastructure. In last year’s Gartner CIO survey, a whopping 34% of respondents stated that they would reduce spending on infrastructure and datacentres. And while this supports a clear trend of trust and utility regarding cloud services, there is a vast competitive advantage to be achieved by bringing your operations to the cutting edge of cloud technology. To put it simply: organisations that will harness the true capability of multicloud could speed up time-to-market through well-rationalised cloud strategy, secure applications through automated infrastructure and delivery, reduce costs by effective use of multiple cloud services, and foster innovation through modern service architecture.

Hybrid cloud vs Multicloud

In general, hybrid cloud is defined as a combination between on-premise, customer-managed IT infrastructure and a public cloud. Many organisations in Insurance and Pensions already operate in this manner, reaping the benefits of always-available data, reducing single points of failure and increasing the accessibility of your critical tools. But multicloud takes this a step further: reducing your reliance on expensive, difficult-to-maintain on-premise hardware and software, by combining multiple connected cloud solutions to manage your platform. In essence, multicloud is the combination of multiple cloud deployments, regardless of whether these are private clouds, existing hybrid cloud platforms, and public clouds.

Keylane plans to take an innovative approach regarding the implementation of multicloud in the future. With over 65% of our clients on SaaS,

the foundation for an effective multicloud strategy is already available. Keylane offers its own private cloud environment that satisfies the most stringent security and availability demands, with two datacentres, ISO27001 certification and ISAE 3402 Type II. This provides our clients with a top-of-the-line private cloud solution, which includes parallel preproduction environments, high-quality monitoring and business continuity management. According to recently published research from Gartner (Gill, 2019), it is estimated that twenty percent of insurers globally will have adopted multicloud deployment for their core platform components by 2022. The maturity of Keylane’s private cloud environment drove us to focus on expanding our multicloud vision, working together with leading cloud services provider IBM.





Cutting-edge cloud

A robust multicloud means that you will gain the capability to match specific workflows to specific cloud environments based on unique requirements, whether those are scalability, compute performance, or compliance, among others. It also provides increased business continuity: if one cloud is offline or unavailable, the other cloud(s) provide you with the same working environment. In a nutshell, multicloud can offer uncompromised flexibility, customised to your needs, which provides you with the functionality you need dependent on your requirements at any given time.

Keylane has partnered with IBM in this space to lay the groundwork for a fit-for-purpose multicloud strategy,

because we share the same core values of openness, security and quality. IBM Multicloud will enable you to have the same services available on IBM cloud services as well as on Keylane private cloud, and even on additional third-party public clouds and edge services. Additionally, multicloud delivers increased security. Keylane Private Cloud has robust security controls and tools, and when you combine this with a solution like IBM Multicloud, risk decreases exponentially. It proactively aligns, protects and manages threats to digital assets, users and data, allowing you to refocus on what matters most for your business.

Conclusion

CIOs and IT management in the Insurance and Pension space who are already embracing modern cloud strategies, will almost certainly face moving towards a multicloud environment. Cloud has brought unprecedented agility to the Insurance and Pension industry, and multicloud is a logical next step to a fast, secure and cloud-native infrastructure. With multicloud, you will be able to:

- ◆ Avoid the challenges of having to manage a single-vendor cloud strategy, providing you with flexibility and transparency
- ◆ Optimise your strategy for both performance and cost, using different cloud environments for different needs and therefore reducing the possibility of purchasing unnecessary compute power, storage or accessibility
- ◆ Reduce single points of failure by spreading out your components across a mesh of clouds. This increases the reliability of redundancy.
- ◆ Access the “best of all worlds” by finding providers that match the specific requirements of each part of your operations, placing workloads and data based on compliance, policy, and/or security requirements.
- ◆ Reduce risk, increase scale, and decrease latency.

Interested in a more detailed insight into our multicloud vision?

We'd love to hear from you! Contact us, and our experts will be in touch to help you unlock tomorrow.

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