

Hybrid Cloud Is The Way Forward For Canadian Businesses

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Compared to its large neighbor to the south, Canada may appear to be moving slowly in the area of tech infrastructure growth. But a new study from Avanade Inc has shown that Canadian businesses have in fact been moving hastily towards the hybrid cloud . The study, conducted by Wakefield on behalf of Avanade Inc. was recently released during the Cloud and Mobility Summit organized by Microsoft Canada in Toronto.

According to the report, Canadian CXOs are 32% more likely than the IT leaders to commit to a hybrid cloud future. This includes moving a number of critical tech infrastructure components, including data analytics, ecommerce and the customer facing services to the hybrid cloud.

For the uninitiated, cloud (or cloud computing) refers to the practice of using remote, third party servers to host and process information that are otherwise typically stored in a local server. Cloud servers are typically classified as private clouds (remote servers hosted within a corporate firewall), public cloud (servers owned and hosted by third party companies and offered to businesses as a service) or hybrids (a mix of private and public cloud).

According to Craig Brown, Senior Manager of IP Managed Services at AllStream, one of the leading provider of business phone and networking services in Canada, cloud computing today has become a utility much in the same way as water, electricity and gas have. While cloud computing offers a lot of benefits like ease of setup, lower capital and quicker collaboration, there have always been concerns about security and reliability.

A hybrid cloud “where sensitive information is hosted within a private cloud framework but may be accessed by reliable third party cloud servers for deployment on applications, is being seen as an attractive alternative that brings the advantage of cloud computing without its negatives. The Wakefield Research survey, which talked to more than 1000 respondents from more than 21 countries points out that 76% of the Canadian companies surveyed expected to have at least 50% of their applications and services deployed on a hybrid cloud platform within the next three years.

The other important takeaways from the study are:

- 68% of Canadian businesses see hybrid cloud strategy as a big focus area for 2015
- 57% of Canadian businesses do not have a hybrid cloud strategy in place at the moment
- Only 22% of respondents from Canada were able to articulate the benefits of a hybrid cloud setup
- 66% of businesses use the cloud to merely run existing applications. That is, the true potential of cloud native applications have not been realized yet by these companies
- 52% of respondents from Canada see security and privacy as key concerns for cloud deployment