KEY CONSIDERATIONS FOR RETHINKING YOUR WORKLOAD HOSTING STRATEGY

IT'S 2025. IT MIGHT BE TIME FOR A WORKLOAD HOSTING GUT-CHECK

The IT landscape continues to evolve at a rate never seen before. In 2025 organizations of all sizes and industries are looking to map their modernization journey and adapt infrastructure to effectuate this new reality. AI/ML, advanced data operations, growing security concerns, and new data governance and privacy concerns are just a few of the challenges that organizations must take control of.

And while all these new IT challenges are emerging, many of the familiar ones remain. Whether it's legacy workloads or modern cloud apps, the necessity to maintain high performance levels, cost efficiency, reliability and data integrity are as important as ever.

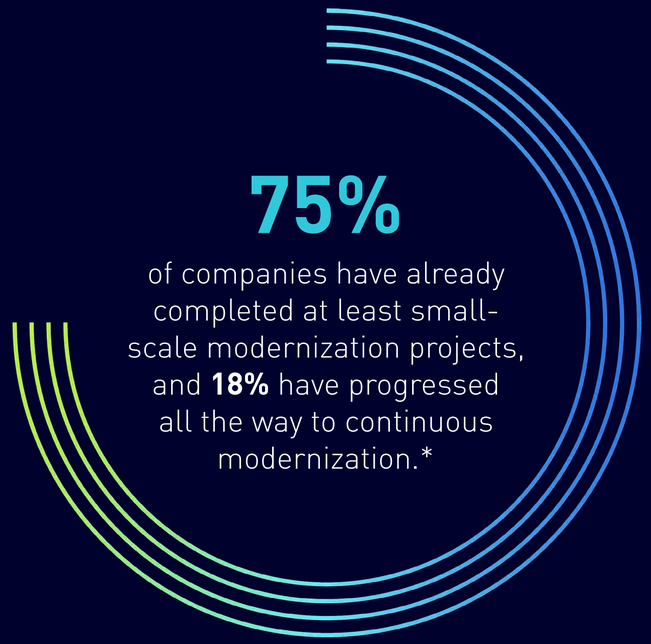
For many IT organizations 2025 will be the year to take a step back and assess key workloads across their environments to determine what hosting model makes the most strategic sense for each.

This document explores key considerations for evolving your workload hosting strategy on the road to IT modernization.

WHAT'S AT STAKE? APPS ARE AT THE CENTER OF THE MODERNIZATION JOURNEY

IT pros think modernization is key

Most are already taking action



And they're relying on partners to help

*SOURCE: "The State of Application Modernization" Red Hat, June 2024

10 KEY CONSIDERATIONS FOR YOUR WORKLOAD HOSTING STRATEGY

We'll explore the most common hosting models later. But first, let's get a high-level look at key things you should consider about your workload.

1

Total cost of ownership (TCO) of the existing hosting model and potential future model

2

Backup and disaster recovery requirements and how that is enmeshed in your current environment

3

Application interdependencies, both known and unknown, especially for legacy workloads

4

Similarly, any existing **third-party integrations** that might be critical

5

Long-term strategies for supporting future **workloads like AI/ML**

6

Evolving **data security, privacy and governance requirements**

7

Licensing structures and costs

8

Need for **workload portability** across different infrastructure types

9

Existing **team skillsets** and potential future needs based on hosting model

10

Potential **vendor lock-in** constraints of current and considered models

WHAT HOSTING MODEL WORKS BEST FOR YOUR WORKLOAD?

There are three major consolidated hosting models that most solution fit into. Let's first define these at a high level and then we'll dig into key considerations for each.

Traditional virtualization hypervisors

Ideal for organizations prioritizing familiar infrastructure and operational continuity.

Modern application platforms

Support containerization and microservices to enable agility and scalability.

Hyperscale clouds

Offer on-demand scalability and global reach for dynamic workloads.

Three-tier architecture vs. hyperconverged infrastructure

It's worth noting that both traditional virtualization and modern app models can be approached with either a three-tier architecture or hyperconverged infrastructure (HCI).

Three-tier architecture separates compute, storage and networking, allowing organizations to scale each independently based on workload needs. This model provides flexibility but requires careful capacity planning and management.

HCI, on the other hand, consolidates compute and storage into a single, node-based architecture, simplifying operations and improving scalability. While HCI reduces complexity, it also means that compute and storage scale together (unless disaggregated), which may not be ideal for all workloads. It's important to weigh the need for independent scaling versus the operational simplicity of an integrated system.

> **"A LOT OF THE EASY WORKLOADS HAVE MOVED AND NOW COMES A LOT OF THE TOUGH STUFF, THE CRITICAL STUFF. SO, I THINK THE BIG QUESTION IS 'WHERE DOES IT GO AND WHAT WILL IT LOOK LIKE?'"**
>
> **Dennis Smith**
> Distinguished Vice President, Analyst,
> Infrastructure and Operations
> *Gartner*

TRADITIONAL VIRTUALIZATION HYPERVISORS

What to know

Traditional virtualization platforms offer reliability and familiarity but may come with higher costs and vendor dependencies.

Tend to offer:

- Familiarity and reliability as a legacy platform
- Robust security
- Efficient resource utilization
- Reliable vendor support

Should consider:

- Potential vendor lock-in
- Licensing structures and costs
- Rapid scale limitations
- Patch management and updates

MODERN APP PLATFORMS

What to know

Application modernization platforms unlock the potential of containerization, enabling flexible, scalable, mobile apps.

Tend to offer:

- Containerization, microservices and cloud-native development
- Unified platform for VMs and containers
- Expansive open-source resources
- Integration with CI/CD pipelines
- Flexibility to scale across hybrid environments

Should consider:

- Developer and operator skillsets
- Management complexities
- Networking complexities
- Potential hidden costs of containers at scale

HYPERSCALE CLOUDS

What to know

Hyperscale cloud environments offer unmatched scalability and global access.

Tend to offer:

- On-demand scalability
- Global availability
- Pay-as-you-go pricing models
- High availability and disaster recovery
- Innovative security
- Broad ecosystem of integrations

Should consider:

- Potential vendor lock-in
- Cost creep
- Potential performance variability and unpredictable outages
- Integration complexity with on-premises infrastructure

ECHOSTOR IS YOUR MODERNIZATION PARTNER, STRATEGY TO EXECUTION

EchoStor brings over 20 years of experience helping organizations along their journey to modern IT. Our team is here to help you assess your critical workloads and find your best option. In some cases that means reinvesting in what's already working; in others it's a transformative shift to containers and microservices. Whatever the path forward, our team has your back every step of the way.

Here's how we can help you find the best-fit workload hosting options.

Workload hosting experts

EchoStor has helped its customers execute hundreds of workload migrations.

Vendor-agnostic approach

We combine a broad base of partners with expertise across all major hosting models to find the best solution for you.

Interdependency assessments

We'll uncover all interdependencies that have hooks into the app and might cause unforeseen issues in a migration.

Third-party integrations assessments

We'll inventory all third-party integrations with the app to understand their implications for all hosting options.

A focus on TCO

A detailed analysis of the total cost of ownership of your workload will ensure we find a hosting option that maximizes value.

An eye towards the future

We'll help you evaluate hosting options in the context of larger business and IT goals five and ten years out.

WE CAN ALSO HELP YOU THINK BEYOND WORKLOAD HOSTING

EchoStor takes a holistic approach to the Next Gen Data Center. We see the cloud as an extension of the data center, integrating hybrid cloud strategies with on-premises solutions. Our expertise in automation, security and data management ensures seamless transitions wherever your workloads live, today or tomorrow.

Our partnership with Dell Technologies and other infrastructure leaders strengthens our ability to make IT modernization a reality. Together, we provide scalable infrastructure, advanced security and performance-driven solutions that support digital transformation.

Software-defined infrastructure

Automating provisioning and detaching resources from hardware, we create a streamlined system that's as flexible as it is powerful.

Data protection

We design backup and recovery solutions adapted to your specific needs to ensure your data is always secure and accessible.

Hybrid cloud

From improving workload mobility to boosting performance, our approach to hybrid cloud gives you the flexibility to adapt and the power to scale.

Automated operations

We let automation do the heavy lifting, streamlining your operations, reducing errors and freeing your team to focus on driving your business forward.

Robust security

By combining proactive monitoring with built-in safeguards, we create a secure, resilient foundation for your operations.

LET'S STRATEGIZE TOGETHER

EchoStor is here when you're ready to assess your workloads and evaluate the best hosting options available. Our expert team can guide you through every step of your modernization journey.

REQUEST A WORKLOAD HOSTING STRATEGY SESSION

ABOUT ECHOSTOR

Founded in 2005 and headquartered in Norwood, Massachusetts, **EchoStor Technologies is a leading information technology provider**. EchoStor partners with industry-leading manufacturers to offer a full suite of advanced technology solutions focused on the entire lifecycle of customer data and infrastructure.