



Strategically Planning to Run SAP Workloads in the Cloud

As ASUG research has tracked SAP customers moving more workloads to the cloud, we also have identified the hurdles they are overcoming. Customers with well-defined cloud strategies experience fewer challenges and achieve the desired benefits.

While most SAP environments remain on-premises, cloud deployments are a growing trend. ASUG research has found that SAP customers are steadily moving to the cloud and expect this to continue. In the 2020 ASUG Pulse of the SAP Customer study, 82% of respondents told us they were running workloads in the cloud. Of that group, 37% are using a hybrid of public and private cloud. They also are pairing cloud decisions with their plans to adopt SAP S/4HANA.

While SAP customers are benefitting from these moves, they also are dealing with cloud complexity, especially in hybrid and multicloud environments (Figure 1). This complexity leads to pain points that intensify when organizations are new to the cloud and when they lack an organizationwide cloud strategy.

Figure 1: Top Cloud Complexities and How SAP Customers Are Responding



Source: ASUG research, August 2020

SAP customers have identified integration, inconsistent standards across cloud providers, data migration issues, and a lack of in-house skills as top pain points. Yet they are not always responding to these complexities in the most effective ways. Rather than adding more personnel and tools (Figure 1), SAP customers should first focus on developing a cloud strategy that accounts for data storage, security concerns, automation, and opportunities to bring in partners with cloud expertise that can share these responsibilities.

Implications: Choose a Cloud Partner with SAP Data Expertise

Some SAP customers are benefitting from the cloud's cost savings, reduced burdens on IT teams, and ability to scale. But rapid cloud ROI is not easy to achieve without help. For customers planning to move to SAP HANA or SAP S/4HANA, now is the time to find a partner with SAP expertise to help you evaluate your data and cloud storage needs. Avoid building unnecessary complexity or costs into your future projects. Look for a partner that offers end-to-end data security, works with all major cloud providers, and lowers your TCO by simplifying your SAP lifecycle management.

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ASUG

ASUG is the world's largest SAP user group. Originally founded by a group of visionary SAP customers in 1991, its mission is to help people and organizations get the most value from their investment in SAP technology. ASUG currently serves thousands of businesses via companywide memberships, connecting more than 130,000 professionals with networking and educational resources to help them master new challenges. Through in-person and virtual events, on-demand digital resources, and ongoing advocacy for its membership, ASUG helps SAP customers make more possible.

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