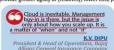
Date: 16.11.2018 **Publication:** The Economic Times Page No.: 7 Edition: Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore

There is no one right cloud strategy for banks and financial services companies. A holistic, cloud-based transformation of an enterprise is desired, but the key is the right mix of architecture planning, integration of verticals, security and regulatory consciousness.

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The banking and financial services industry taces similar IT challenges as other industries: revamping monolinic architectures, scaling up creaking infrastructure, and dealing with agragnatura amounts of data for enhanced customer experience. Beyond IT, though, finance firms face some of the most stringent regulatory compliance and security standards. In addition, the industry has seen an array of mimble, tech-savy start-ups challenge the big boys. Which means the latter are now engaged in a no-holds-barred contest for growth in a hyper-competitive environment.

environment. How do they cope? One bulwark that has been established in recent times is cloud computing. Effectively employing cloud as a business asset can help financial services organisations transform their operating models and create a shield against business disruption. Cloud computing platforms provide greater agiliry at (relatively) lower cost, plus

















If the underlying infrastructure is getting patched and affects an application, it is a legacy problem, you cannot get away from it. We are applications have to mature and we are probably 5-6 years away

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cither benefits, and finance companies are in a acc to make the most of these opportunities.

Indeed, BFSI organisations are already on the cloud, especially public cloud, but what should be an optimal cloud strategy? Which platform work best private, public or hybrid or a rich mist hould be an optimal cloud strategy? Which platform work best: private, public or hybrid or a rich mist How does one tacke the task of 'cloudification' of legacy applications? How does one face the cultural challenges of cloud adoption? These questions were debated with gusts at a closed-door gathering of top barking and finance hands, insurance companies, and stock exchanges. The initiative was brought to life by The Economic Times and Intel, and the discussion took on the burning topic of "Finance in the Cloud". Kicking off the discussion, Prakash Mallya, Managing Director-Selase and Marketing Group, Intel India, pointed to some interesting trends - less than 1 per cent of data generated has been analysed, data will rise 10 Kin the next 10 years, eminagined to meet this rise; and demand for more intelligent storage will rise, to drive analytics and insights. Perhaps the most germane point was that private-hybrid workloads have doubled from 6 per cent in 2013 to 12 per cent in 2018. Clearly, the tend towards hybrid doud is accelerating. Key



Following Mallya's note, in a context-setting talk, IDCs Avneesh Saxena referred to a survey of the firm that found a huge shift happening back from public cloud to private cloud, although both are growing. Financial services comparies are investing compliance, online banking, mobile payments, loan processing, origination, etc. Driving this movement is the fact that cloud offers great advantages from a shared perspective compared to legacy applications. That is why, increasingly, customers say we want to move from on-premise, non-cloud to a balance between private and public control of the state of the private and public and the state of the state

**Takeaways** 

Some of the legacy applications would need to be migrated into new plications, and be moved into the cloud

CHALLENGES IN CLOUD ADOPTION



- INTERNAL CHALLENGES



In India, there is a place for both public cloud and private cloud. The share of the two changes from vertical to verti-cal, but in financial services, there is a healthy mix of both

robust cloud infrastructure. For instance, many start-ups are putting their credit decision management engines on the cloud. Large banks and finance institutions could emulate that strategy, and even look to take their origination or customer acquisition systems onto a cloud-based architecture. They could also consider other devops practices such as Docker, so that applications are cloud-native while being developed using a cloud strate while being developed using a cloud strate for the country of the country o



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their uptime. The bank is also looking at how it can migrate to a simplified architecture and, further, get into micro-services, in order to build core competencies around lear areas such as mobile competencies around lear areas such as mobile competencies around lear areas such as mobile Clearly, there's ample ground evidence of IDCs survey results of accelerated adoption of cloud technology and the value it brings. National Stock Exchange's CTO Sankarson Banerjee focused on the three advantages that cloud offers: 1. Administrative simplicity. 2. Unlimited computing 3. Cloud can make compute local. Even though cloud hings don't automatically become local just because you put it on cloud (architectural rewamp is required for that), these three advantages can serve to strengthen the adoption roadmap for cloud computing. Plus, cloud helps scale up offerings much easier and faster. Therefore, today,



whenever the finance sector talks of future investments and data centre refresh, cloud is inevitable.

The one big challenge around cloud adoption is people and organisational culture. The fact that IT personnel in older, conventional organisations don't think cloud or micro services when they develop applications, is a bottleneck, though not develop applications, is a bottleneck, though not encompassing legory architecture and software, the IT function finds it difficult to transform into an agile, modular thought engine. Happily, though, things are changing and a culture shift is underway.

Cloud service models allow organisations to shift from a capital intensive approach to a more flexible approach that lowers operational costs. The key to success lies in selecting the right cloud strategy to match business needs

match business needs

People are beginning to adopt newer technologies and faster ways of working.

In addition, the potential for claud technologies of the potential problem, and the potential problem, and the present ground operating models, rather than using it for fundamental transformation. There is much that cloud technology can do here. Then, to realize the full potential of cloud, people need to be full potential of cloud, and the cloud potential of cloud, the process to get them to 'think' cloud when An interesting way for finance companies in India to leverage cloud technology could be to create what sanjay harkar, CTO of IPC Bank, calls a community cloud - a technology platform for banks to collaborate on matters related to bank frauds and NIPAs. Such a community platform would help immersely, because banks can then make the collaboration of the processes and the control of the processes and the control of the processes and the control of the processes and the process