AC3

CHOOSING A PATH WITH THE RIGHT BALANCE

Creating efficient, secure, and productive hybrid cloud environment with HPE GreenLake

Hewlett Packard Enterprise

Leaders of some of Australia's leading organisations, both public and private, are investing their time and energy to ensure they have a plan to optimise operational efficiency and disaster recovery to create a more reliable, and secure infrastructure.
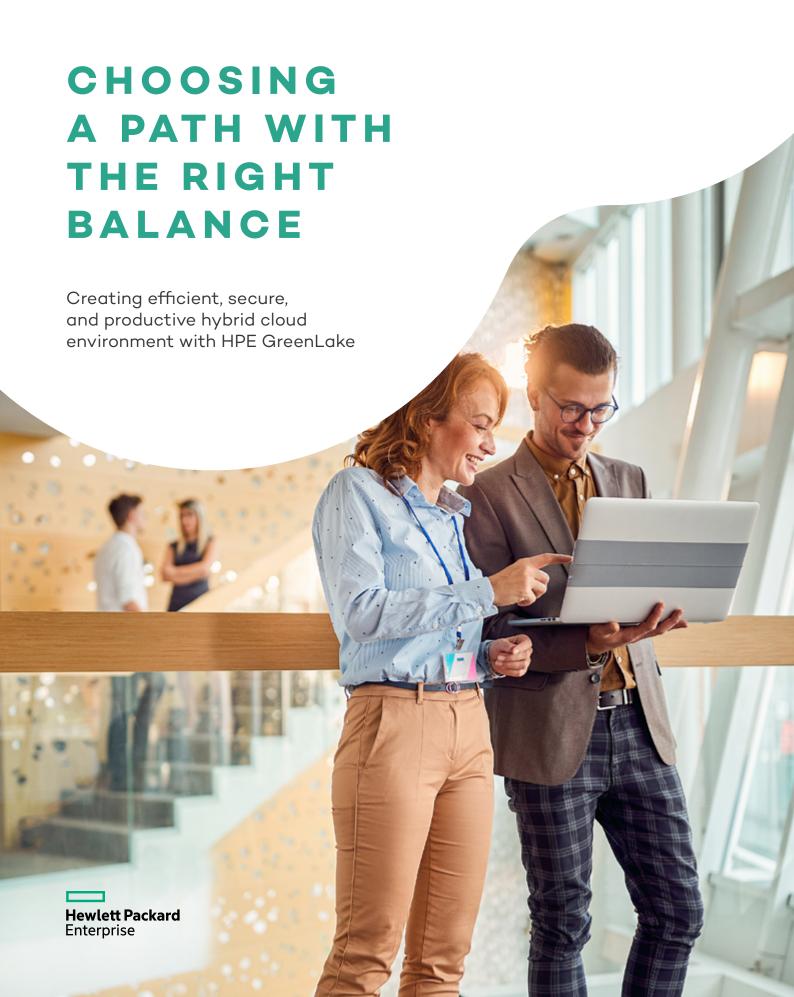
While it seems like a relatively straightforward aim on paper, the reality is that several factors have emerged to complicate the task. Chief among these is the complexity of current IT infrastructure, with the majority (82%) of organisations now employing a hybrid cloud approach to their infrastructure.[1]

Traditional on-premise legacy infrastructure hosting core applications now sits alongside a range of mobile applications, software, and security services spread across either public or private cloud environments.

It's a trend that's set to continue. According to Gartner, by 2027, over half (65%) of application workloads will be suitable for cloud delivery by 2027, and 35% of data centre infrastructure will be managed from a cloud-based control plane.[2]

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This growing complexity presents a considerable challenge for IT teams tasked with maintaining security as well as ensuring the scalability, efficiency, and reliability of the organisation's overall infrastructure. The pressure is definitely starting to show, with over a third (37%) of IT leaders say maintaining security is a primary challenge of running a multi-cloud or hybrid-cloud environment.

Many organisations in highly-regulated industries are still rely on legacy infrastructure hosted in on-premise environments, which lack flexibility and scalability, with the added disadvantage of being expensive to maintain.

Finding a way forward

This eBook explores many of these challenges in greater detail, with a particular focus on the choices available for organisations operating in highly regulated sectors including government, financial services, insurance, and healthcare.

Drawing on our extensive experience in this sector, we'll highlight how a managed solution built on HPE GreenLake, is well suited to deliver the security, efficiency, and control these organisations demand.

"As cloud computing markets and data centre infrastructure evolve, and interest in migrating workloads grows, many enterprises struggle to identify the right partners and solutions."

Gartner [4]

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WHERE HIGHLY REGULATED ORGANISATIONS ARE FINDING THEIR BIGGEST CHALLENGES

Organisations in highly regulated industries, such as government and financial services, face a raft of challenges when it comes to managing their IT infrastructure. In our experience these challenges tend to fall into a handful of key themes:

Managing unpredictable workloads

Complex, multi-faceted environments can be rigid and slow to update or expand, which limits an organisation or government department's ability to react quickly when required. For some organisations, these fluctuations can be seasonal, such as "tax time" or they can be completely unforeseen, such as in the case of a pandemic or natural disaster.

Yet many organisations lack the ability to effectively manage unpredictable workloads, often paying too much for their cloud services or finding themselves unable to source the additional capacity required, leading to outages and low levels of customer satisfaction.

We've seen how technologies such as GreenLake can be part of good planning processes for managing unpredictable or fluctuating workloads, providing significant benefits for teams who do not currently have access to sophisticated capacity planning tools.

Optimising resource utilisation

It's not uncommon to see an organisation retain certain resources which are either under- or over-provisioned. The risk of underperformance can outweigh the cost of misaligned resources, particularly for organisations where service uptime and customer satisfaction are a high priority. This can prove a significant cost and administrative overhead while also reducing the overall efficiency of the environment.

Complex IT procurement processes

Sourcing technology from multiple vendors adds layers of complexity to every step of the procurement process. Negotiating contracts, pricing models, and service-level agreements for each vendor demands a considerable investment of time and resources. Even with a unified procurement strategy, inefficiencies, cost overruns, and potential conflicts in contractual obligations all face an IT team facing off against an array of often-competing vendors.
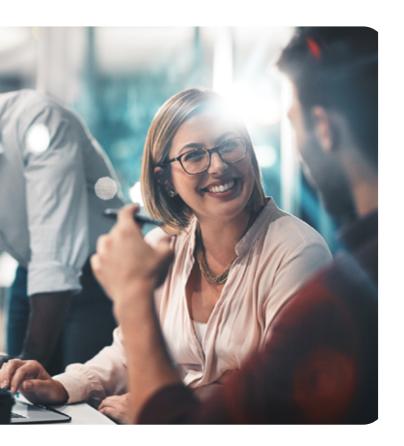
Controlling costs

Complex IT infrastructure can also be very costly to maintain, particularly in terms of specialist skills for technology that is becoming out of date, not widely supported in the market or even bespoke. We've seen organisations fall into the trap of sweating assets towards the end of a technology lifecycle, where the infrastructure is deemed 'free' by the business because the capital cost is paid off but it is still in use. This can lead to a situation where old and new systems being used together, which can cause compatibility and interoperability issues.

THINKING BEYOND HYBRID
THE BENEFITS OF HPE GREENLAKE FOR HIGHLY REGULATED SECTORS

After the first wave of public cloud migrations, we've seen a new approach emerge that brings together the best elements of these different technologies.

HPE GreenLake is a portfolio of cloud and as-a-service solutions that delivers a cloud experience wherever your apps and data live— on the edge, in a data centre, within a colocation environment, or in public cloud. Available on a pay-as-you-go basis, HPE GreenLake runs on an open and secure edge-to-cloud platform, which gives you the flexibility to respond quickly to opportunities.

Enhanced agility and scalability

HPE GreenLake delivers the scalability and flexibility of the cloud, while still meeting your needs around security, data sovereignty, compliance, latency, and application dependency.

This enhanced scalability is delivered along several axes of the infrastructure, helping you address often competing needs from within you organisation:

- As HPE GreenLake is consumed on an as-a-service basis, you can scale it up or down as it suits your business, which helps you avoid the expense of overprovisioning.

- Flexible capacity planning allows you to scale resources up or down to adapt to changing demands or growth.

- Pre-configured solutions enable swift deployment of additional resources or services while removing the complexities often associated with aggressive infrastructure expansion.

- In-built insights and management tools can help with resource utilisation and other Resource optimisation across networks.

Simplified, consolidated IT management

HPE GreenLake can significantly reduce the burden of complex hybrid IT management for your team by streamlining your operations, managing resources more efficiently, and enabling seamless integration with your other cloud services.

Many of our clients now enjoy efficient co-located data centre facilities, delivered under a single contract, with a single invoice and a single service delivery experience. On average, HPE GreenLake customers also report a 65% increase in their IT team's productivity thanks to the reduction of their support load.

Cost and time savings

To stay effective, data centres require frequent updates in terms of space, cooling and power capacity. These updates can be costly, and require an investment of time to manage.

With HPE GreenLake, you gain access to ready-to-go, modern data centre facilities, without having to undertake a costly rebuild or update of your own. The pay-per-use model also eliminates over-provisioning and provides predictable billing.

Accelerated deployment

With HPE GreenLake, organisations can swiftly deploy new technologies and applications with HPE's expertise and pre-configured solutions. This removes the complexity that's often associated with infrastructure expansion.

Resource optimisation

HPE GreenLake means you can allocate resources based on your unique workload needs, further improving efficiency and utilisation rates. Insights and management tools in HPE GreenLake can also provide significant assistance with resource utilisation and other optimisation across networks.

Providing capacity where data is moving to

It's estimated that around 60% of enterprise IT infrastructure will soon focus more on centres of data than traditional data centres.

HPE GreenLake with colocation means you can place your data centre infrastructure closer to the edge, and on a global scale if needed. Rather than having to depend on routing your data to wherever your cloud service provider is located, you can deploy your infrastructure with a colocation facility closer to your users, applications and data.
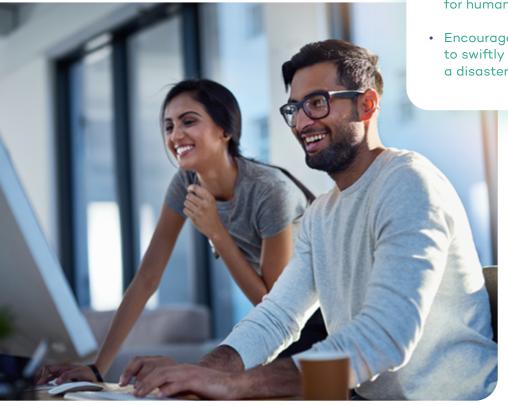
TRANSFORMING YOUR APPROACH TO DATA BACKUP AND PROTECTION

Many organisations are still relying on a fragmented mix of point solutions for backups, target storage, and long-term data retention. The issue here is that each solution is typically designed on proprietary hardware or software that has specific maintenance and support contracts. IT staff are often involved in manually activating specific elements of backup.

By contrast, solutions like HPE GreenLake enables you to modernise your data protection in minutes. Enjoy on-demand scalability and resilient protection, without the extra work of managing and operating bespoke backup hardware, software and cloud infrastructure.

Best-practice tips for optimising your data protection

- Conduct a risk assessment exercise to identify potential vulnerabilities and develop a disaster recovery plan from that

- Regularly test your disaster recovery plan through simulation or automated procedures such as penetration testing

- Ensure employees are trained to follow the disaster recovery plan, minimising delays and the potential for human error

- Encourage collaboration across teams to swiftly respond to, and recover from, a disaster situation

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HOW HYBRID CLOUD ENVIRONMENTS ALLOW YOU TO LEVERAGE DEVOPS MORE EASILY

We've also seen significant benefits flow from leveraging DevOps in these type of environments, which can promote collaboration, agility, consistency, scalability, continuous improvement, and enhanced security.

More streamlined collaboration

DevOps integration can facilitate seamless collaboration between development, operations, and procurement teams, particularly through automation tools and shared communication channels.

Consistency and standardization

Coupled with Infrastructure as Code, DevOps principles can help ensure consistent and standardised infrastructure configurations, reducing the workload on your IT teams.

Continuous monitoring and improvement

The increased visibility and control provided by an HPE GreenLake environment allows for automated testing, deployment, and monitoring of infrastructure changes.

Agility and speed

Implementing DevOps in an environment like HPE GreenLake accelerates procurement processes, allowing quick provisioning and scaling of resources based on project demands, reducing time-to-market.

Scalability and flexibility

HPE GreenLake is the ideal environment to support automated scaling, allowing procurement teams to efficiently adjust capacity based and optimise cost.

Security and compliance

Integrating security and compliance in this type of environment brings obvious benefits, including automated compliance checks and security testing strengthening overall infrastructure security.

CHOOSING A HPE GREENLAKE PARTNER WHO UNDERSTANDS YOUR ORGANISATION

As the only Australian owned Platinum partner to also hold a Gold Service Provider Partnership, AC3 can offer local expertise in HPE's extensive product suite, including HPE GreenLake.

HPE's world class technology underpins our own private data centres, so our customers always have access to leading technology in a secure, scalable environment. As the winner of HPE's Service Provider of the Year three times over, we are the right partner to deliver on the promise of HPE's technology.

1, 3. Tech Republic, 82% of IT leaders are adopting the hybrid cloud, 2022 2. Gartner, Gartner Says 4 Trends Are Shaping the Future of Cloud, Data center and Edge Infrastructure, 2023 4. Gartner, Gartner Says 50% of Critical Enterprise Applications Will Reside Outside of Centralised Public Cloud Locations Through 2027, 2023 5. A commissioned study conducted by Forrester Consulting, The Total Economic Impact™ of HPE GreenLake , May 2022. 6. Gartner, "Infrastructure Is Everywhere: The Evolution of Data Centers," refreshed January 2021

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READY TO UNLOCK A MORE FLEXIBLE, SCALABLE, AND EFFICIENT IT INFRASTRUCTURE?

If you have a plan to optimise operational efficiency and disaster recovery to create a more reliable, and secure infrastructure, now is the time to explore the choices provided by HPE GreenLake.

Get in touch with the team at AC3 and request a consultation on:
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