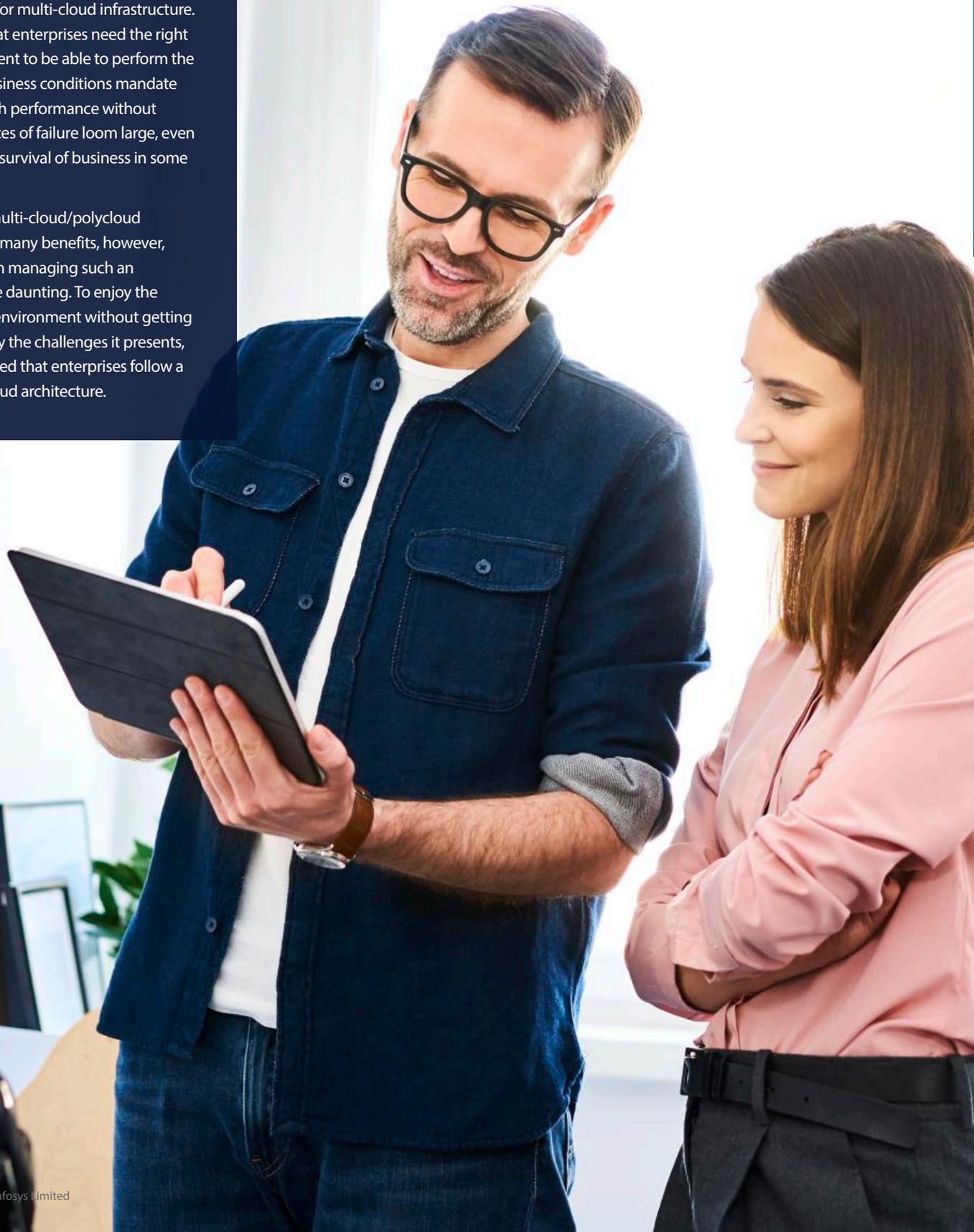




THE KEY TO SUCCEED IN A MULTI-CLOUD ENVIRONMENT

Recent studies show that many firms are exploring adopting multiple clouds for organizational needs. A rapidly evolving as well as a complex business environment lay the foundation for multi-cloud infrastructure. Suffice to say that enterprises need the right cloud environment to be able to perform the best. Today's business conditions mandate the need for high performance without which the chances of failure loom large, even threatening the survival of business in some cases.

No doubt, the multi-cloud/polycoud approach offers many benefits, however, the challenges in managing such an environment are daunting. To enjoy the benefits of this environment without getting overwhelmed by the challenges it presents, it is recommended that enterprises follow a genuine polycoud architecture.



A polycloud architecture is cloud-agnostic and allows enterprises to use different service providers in accordance with their needs. It offers crucial advantages such as -

- An enterprise can choose the top services and features from each cloud provider rather than make do with what is available from a single provider
- Minimal lock in – flexibility in choosing what they want based on context
- Ability to seamlessly switch providers for specific workloads (portability)
- Cost optimization thanks to automation and intelligent orchestration
- Seamless experience across user

personas (developer, operator, data scientist, security expert etc.)

- Empowers the user as they can work with the best of the services.

With the polycloud architecture, the user does not have to worry about sifting through services from various providers and evaluating them. Nor do they have to concern themselves over acquiring advanced skills to keep pace with the expanding and increasingly complex catalogs of service providers.

However, developing the right polycloud architecture requires careful thinking and planning.



Three pillars of the architecture

An effective polycloud architecture entails three core elements -



Platform strategy

To deliver all the benefits of the polycloud architecture, a well-crafted platform strategy is mandatory. The strategy must integrate the various cloud constructs such as abstracting services from multiple cloud services providers and providing a seamless interface to these services; delivering a smooth experience to users; and ensuring ease of use for every stakeholder with minimal vendor lock-in. For a successful strategy, it is vital to envisage the expected outcomes without compromising on the innovation offered by each provider and incorporate it at the very beginning.



Adoption Strategy

The next crucial element involves determining how to ensure smooth adoption and usage across the organization. This means figuring out the best way to provide accelerated delivery, portfolio assessment, business process mapping, site reliability and resilience through the 7Rs (Retire, Retain, Refactor, Re-architect, Re-host, Remediate, Re-platform). These critical considerations must be addressed at the start to ensure widespread adoption and usage.



Operations strategy

Any strategy is only as good as the execution. Consequently, laying out an operations plan with details on the targeted operating model and considerations for the future is essential. In addition, factoring in seamless service management across the cloud and enabling self-service in cloud operations is a must. Further, the strategy must extend to fostering DevOps and Site Reliability Engineering (SRE) while also planning for a culture change to make the enterprise people-centric and collaborative. The culture change is vital as employees learn how to operate in the new environment and maximize the advantages that a multi-cloud environment can deliver.

The three-step strategy process is holistic and will enable enterprises to thrive in a heterogeneous cloud environment, a critical need in today's dynamic business environment.

About the Author



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Saju has two decades of experience in IT infrastructure and Cloud in the space of consulting, advisory, solutions, sales, and delivery. At Infosys, he heads the Service R&D and Automation Products and Platforms for Cloud and Infrastructure Services. His industry experience makes him a Cloud and Infrastructure transformation leader and a Cloud computing expert who has advised Fortune 200 companies on strategy. He has played various leadership roles and built successful teams, managed cutting-edge technology, nurtured a partner eco-system for business growth and demonstrated content, entrepreneurial and thought leadership.

Infosys Cobalt is a set of services, solutions and platforms for enterprises to accelerate their cloud journey. It offers over 14,000 cloud assets, over 200 industry cloud solution blueprints and a thriving community of cloud business and technology practitioners to drive increased business value. With Infosys Cobalt, regulatory and security compliance, along with technical and financial governance comes baked into every solution delivered.

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