Advice for the Future

Don’t fear the cloud, fear the status quo
Invest in staff training
Expose shortcomings of existing data centers early and often
Urge [key decision makers] to bring on cloud-savvy personnel
Develop a migration plan sooner

If you could go back five years, what would you tell yourself about data center transformation?

They see the ideal infrastructure as:

- 82% Secure
- 82% Reliable
- 67% Scalable

Top motivators:

- Increased resiliency: 56%
- Agility/Modularity: 55%
- Less being: 54%

They view the main costs:

- Infrastructure costs: 68%
- Time needed to migrate: 59%
- Labor costs: 54%

The most common excuses for keeping outdated data centers open:

1. It will take too long to migrate (41%)
2. It will be too expensive (51%)
3. We need to keep essential data/processes under our control (46%)

INFRASTRUCTURE PSYCHOLOGY: Overvaluing Outdated Data Centers

MeriTalk, in partnership with Amazon Web Services (AWS), surveyed Public Sector Summit 2019 registrants to understand how they assess data center value and why some find it so hard to let go.

Most common excuses for keeping outdated data centers open:

1. It will take too long to migrate
2. It will be too expensive
3. We need to keep essential data/processes under our control

Weighing the Options

Key factors when assessing data center value:

- Server utilization rates: 56%
- Amount of mission-critical data/systems contained: 72%
- Cost of data storage equipment: 65%

Costs considered when assessing data center value:

- Cost of data storage equipment: 65%
- Amount of mission-critical data/systems contained: 72%
- Labor costs: 54%

Attachment Issues

74% of government IT pros say they are taking steps to move from legacy to cloud
76% say they are afraid of the unknown
62% say they need to invest in staff training
60% say they need to expose shortcomings of existing data centers
59% say they need to bring on cloud-savvy personnel

Settling for the Status Quo

59% say they are actively taking steps toward data center modernization
57% moved to a cloud-based infrastructure
44% say their agency needs to make more effective data center migration decisions

Moving On with Cloud

93% say they are currently taking steps toward cloud-based infrastructure
57% moved to a cloud-based infrastructure
44% say their agency needs to make more effective data center migration decisions

Advice for the Future

If you could go back five years, what would you tell yourself about data center transformation?

- Developing a migration plan sooner
- Line the process up to fit the cloud-based infrastructure
- Expose shortfalls of existing data center early on

AWS provides commercial cloud capabilities across all classification levels, offering agencies the flexibility to rapidly scale for mission needs.

*Based on survey of 111 government and 104 industry IT decision makers registered for the AWS Public Sector Summit in June 2019

To learn more, visit: https://aws.amazon.com/government-education/government/