

Why IoT success needs a multi-cloud strategy

INTERNET OF THINGS (IoT) is here.

Firms are looking to use device data to automate, streamline and better know their end customers. They are also looking at cloud to store and analyze the fast-growing troves of IoT data.

HKT believes firms should stop looking at single cloud architecture. Rather, they believe it is time to go multi-cloud.

Why? The reasons are simple, according to Stanley Tang, Assistant Vice President, Cloud Services, Product Marketing & Solutions Consulting, HKT Ltd.

“Each cloud service provider has its own strengths. In IoT, there are multiple components involved and a multi-cloud architecture allows you to leverage all the strengths,” he said.

The why and how multi-clouds matter

Take connectivity for example. If your IoT deployment requires instance reporting then you need a cloud service provider with strong connectivity strengths. With deep roots in telecommunications networks, HKT can offer this connectivity.

“But if you want big data analytics, you will need to look for a cloud service provider able to fulfill specific requirement, for example industry specific intelligence. A multi-cloud strategy gives you the flexibility to choose the right service providers for a comprehensive IoT solution,” Tang said.

It also gives you room to evolve your architecture according to changing business needs. For example, if you need to deploy edge computing at multiple locations to analyze IoT data near operational sites, a multi-cloud strategy enables this. A single cloud strategy limits you to the capabilities of a single provider.

“Yes, a single cloud provider simplifies vendor management. But you potentially compromise on features that limit the use case and architecture for the IoT deployment,” Tang said. “If you adopt a multi-cloud approach for various software and applications according to specific features and requirements, you will be able to better utilize the resources and maximize your return on investment.”

HKT Enterprise Cloud advantage

HKT's Enterprise Cloud solution helps enterprises move their IoT deployments to a multi-cloud environment. It offers different features and modules to help firms build their user cases.

“IoT comprises of a lot of components, you need to consider sensors, networks and transport layer among other things. HKT has depth of expertise and strengths on mobile and fixed network capabilities,” Tang said.

HKT Enterprise Cloud goes beyond normal deployments by making it easier to connect with other clouds. Admittedly, Tang noted that rolling out a multi-cloud architecture is no simple task as firms need to consider everything from planning to deployment, including connectivity between different providers.

“This is where HKT comes in. As a telco, we already have a cloud connect service. So you can use it to connect with multiple clouds, including Microsoft Azure, Amazon Web Services, Aliyun and other clouds,” he added.



Stanley Tang
Assistant Vice President,
Cloud Services
Product Marketing &
Solutions Consulting
HKT Ltd

HKT Enterprise Cloud also caters for specific industry requirements. For example, financial services industry (FSI) players need to know physical data location for compliance purposes. HKT offers Managed Private Cloud services that offer dedicated resources for storing customer data that can be easily traced and audited.

Where HKT Enterprise Cloud really stands out is in its approach to building eco-system. Tang noted that most firms are not connecting to the cloud for the sake of it. Rather they are connecting for accessibility, scalability and connectivity to key applications. This can be difficult and time-consuming to do it on your own.

HKT's approach is to build eco-systems with key platform providers and application providers and allow you to plug in. “This allows you to have direct cloud collaboration both with platform providers and solution providers through our cloud,” Tang noted.

Remember to plan

While IoT is forecasted to drive multi-cloud deployments, Tang cautioned firms from jumping into it without forethought.

“Planning is vital in multi-cloud deployments. If you have better planning, then you can have a smooth deployment and migration, and have the option to select [the best cloud providers]. This allows you to avoid any vendor lock ins, as you maintain your flexibility with options,” Tang said.

He noted that planning is an area that many firms overlook, and is a reason why many choose HKT to consult with. “If you really want IoT to change your operational model, then you have to have better planning, especially functions, capabilities, architecture and future capabilities.”