



Cloud Solutions for Big Data

The move to the cloud for analytics does seem increasingly inevitable. The cloud offers lower cost, greater agility, and speed to market.

With these solutions, we can access data to fit with a company's existing data strategy and infrastructure - with a path to adapt as needed. This way, companies have flexibility with their data storage. If they need the extra security and network bandwidth for on-premise storage, open source data frameworks give the ability to query multiple data sources.

But how we get to the cloud varies by company. In a recent survey by IDG Services of IT and business decision makers about analytics storage over the next three years:

- ✚ 32% expect to adopt a cloud-only approach
- ✚ 39% plan to implement a hybrid approach

So, what does this mean for you? If you have a vested interest in data analytics and business intelligence for your company:

1. Look to the cloud first. The benefits of lower costs, greater agility, and speed to market provide real benefit and perhaps competitive advantage.
2. Seek solutions to leverage your existing infrastructure. If your company has already invested heavily in big data infrastructure, look for solutions that let you quickly tap into your data. Ideally, from either the cloud or on-premise.
3. Consider open source data frameworks. If your company is just getting started with big data, spend some time reviewing open source data frameworks. They may let you manage costs while providing the agility you need going forward.

The technology will continue to evolve in the coming years. To best harness your data, you need a solution that solves your current business challenges but also offers you the greatest flexibility in the long run.