

# Security, Simplicity, Scalability, Sustainment, and Speed – Get All Five With No Compromises

Right now, technology and financial models are available to promote continuous innovation, robust security and protection, predictable and transparent financing, and streamlining of the infrastructure to drive down complexity.

The current era provides government agencies with an embarrassment of riches for enterprise infrastructure. In the past 10 years, we have seen an explosive adoption of external cloud architectures to address the need for rapid scaling, initial experimentation, DR/COOP, infrastructure modernization, and enterprise service transformation. Perhaps at no time was this more strenuously validated than during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Government computing focuses on five fundamental drivers: Security, simplicity, scalability, sustainment, and speed. Modern data service platforms built on flash offer transformational capability across all of these factors-amplifying performance in all of these categories-and truly allowing organizations to



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focus on improving application performance and user productivity.

This enables capacity for the future and improves sustainment by dramatically increasing reliability while also driving down technical debt, operational cost, and technical complexity. For

security, there are inherent advantages in flash-based technology that strengthen data immutability and impermeability, as well as providing data encryption and integrity that were historically very challenging to achieve.

We have also seen a growing rationalization of what works well in the cloud, and what services and processes work best for an agency in government-owned/government operated environments. However, traditional IT platforms and business models have historically been one of the core challenges for government agencies, requiring large up-front investments in physical and environmental infrastructure, skilled personnel, contract support, and modernization cycles that are heavy lifts for contracting. Of course, the changing nature of workloads has found agencies with a capability set different from the needs of new workloads.

Some of the most fundamental impacts are in the following areas:

**Data Operations** — Flash memory-based data service platforms have transformed performance in block, file and object storage on-premises and in the cloud. Cloud has dramatically improved scaling, but the unknowns and unpredictability have caused consternation as the reality of cloud deployments meets the reality of requirements in those environments.

**Economics** — The performance tiers of cloud necessary for government are commensurately priced. Industry has moved to provide the as-a-service subscription model for on-premises, fundamentally transforming the sustainment model for enterprise IT, and making it easy for acquisitions by unifying the business model of cloud and on-premises.

**Protection, Security, and Threat Mitigation** — Cloud provides a pre-built and certified environment for deploying capability. This greatly accelerates the evolution of new capability.

**Sustainment and Funding** — Pure Storage's Evergreen model is tailored to provide perpetual lifecycle sustainment at flat, fixed cost. The equipment is upgraded to current generation, non-disruptively, ensuring the technical capability is always current, but the price doesn't escalate. This results in technical debt cancellation and sustained innovation and is available as an on-premises infrastructure subscription to provide flexibility in acquisition as well. The net is the benefits of hosted infrastructure, with the security of on-premises control and responsiveness.

### How Do We Get The Best Of All Worlds?

In the modern era, 3rd party infrastructure provides tremendous flexibility in addressing these dynamics. In the world of IT innovation, this is a tremendously efficient and effective path to enterprise modernization. SaaS platforms have radically expanded the scope of available, modernized applications for enhancing government operations and constituent services as well, and provide unprecedented ease of adoption and scaling for everything from data warehousing, enterprise resource planning, and service ticketing, to customer applications.

Industry has responded by providing cloud-like acquisition and consumption models for on-premises deployment of equipment and services. This provides the best of all worlds to a government agency: addressing the needs of the 5 S's, while also addressing the needs for direct control of the infrastructure, applications, and sovereignty over the data, and at the same time providing the flexibility, scaling, and sustainment benefits of the cloud.

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hosted service infrastructure. This alignment provides global accessibility; data mobility, security, and protection; and efficient sustainment.

In this current era of dynamic change in the IT world, the consumer has an embarrassment of riches. Regardless of how an agency wishes to modernize, the technology and financial models are available to promote continuous innovation, robust security and protection, predictable and transparent financing, and streamlining of the infrastructure to drive down complexity, all while improving environmental factors across every metric. Cloud vs. on-premises is not an either/or question, but an either/and solution.

Security, Simplicity, Scalability, Sustainment, and Speed. Get all five with no compromises. ■