



Protera

THE FUTURE OF
MODERN CLOUD:
**CLOUD-FIRST
SUCCESS STARTS
WITH THE RIGHT MSP**

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The cloud now serves as the backbone of modern ERP and IT strategy. The market for cloud-enabled ERP is expected to more than triple by 2032, with remote and hybrid workplace models acting as a driving force behind this shift, requiring IT leaders to think innovatively about the future of their infrastructures.

Managed service providers (MSPs) play a central role in this sweeping transformation across the business world, guiding enterprise IT teams through the complex and critical migration from legacy systems to the cloud. But that's only the first step in a larger and ongoing journey.

Technology never stands still—and neither can your cloud strategy. Maximizing the value of the cloud for your business requires active and expert management of your environments, something not every internal IT team has the expertise or bandwidth to own. Smart enterprises are turning to expert MSPs for guidance and support.

In this guide, we'll explore the multifaceted world of cloud management, including how to optimize your ERP in cloud environments. We'll also uncover why many organizations are choosing MSPs over internal cloud management to reduce costs, access greater knowledge, and innovate faster in a rapidly-changing IT landscape.

The Modern Cloud Landscape

The shift from on-premise to the cloud marks a significant change in how businesses deploy, manage, and scale their IT infrastructures. From its inception as a tool for simple storage solutions and compute power, cloud computing has morphed into a comprehensive solution set built to support the entire spectrum of enterprise applications and services.

Today's modern cloud is characterized by multi-cloud and hybrid architectures, advanced security and governance processes, sophisticated data analytics capabilities, AI and machine learning integration, and serverless computing options (among countless other new and emerging innovations), offering enterprises unprecedented agility and scalability.

The transition has been marked by a host of benefits and challenges:

Benefits of Modern Cloud	Challenges in Cloud Management
Scalability: Easily scale resources up or down based on demand	Security: Protecting data across diverse cloud services and architectures
Flexibility: Tailor solutions to specific business needs with a mix of cloud services	Compliance: Adhering to regulatory standards across different jurisdictions
Cost Efficiency: Reduce upfront capital expenses and pay for only what you use	Complexity: Managing multi-cloud and hybrid environments
Innovation: Rapidly deploy new applications and services to stay competitive	Integration: Seamlessly connecting cloud services with on-premises systems

Managed service providers play a crucial role in navigating these complexities. Cloud managers now have to take more strategic roles in their organization's operations at every level, and MSPs are experts at addressing the multifaceted challenges of cloud management through a blend of expertise, technology, and data-driven insight.

They do this by:

- ▶ Ensuring workloads, users, and systems are secure and monitored by implementing advanced threat detection and response mechanisms tailored to the cloud's unique vulnerabilities
- ▶ Leveraging knowledge of global regulations to ensure cloud configurations meet all legal and compliance requirements
- ▶ Utilizing sophisticated management tools for seamless multi-cloud and hybrid cloud oversight
- ▶ Employing middleware and API strategies to ensure smooth communication between cloud services and on-premises systems
- ▶ Using advanced data analytics to track and report on important cloud performance metrics in a comprehensive way
- ▶ Providing guidance for the development and implementation of governance frameworks
- ▶ By leveraging the knowledge and tools that MSPs can offer, organizations are able to innovate faster, stay agile, and overcome evolving cloud challenges adeptly.

Modernizing Your ERP

The shift from traditional and often siloed ERP systems to modern, cloud-enabled solutions is becoming a competitive imperative across all industries. Making the transition is about more than simply adopting new technologies—it requires a reimagining of IT and business operations.

Cloud offers the flexibility and scalability that modern businesses need at a level that legacy on-premise systems simply can not meet. Integrated, cloud-powered environments enable:

- ▶ **Immediate Insights:** Access to real-time data across all business functions that enables faster and more informed decisions
- ▶ **Improved Efficiency:** Streamlined processes and automation capabilities around backups, OS patching, and spinning up servers reduce manual interventions that increase operational efficiency
- ▶ **Access to Innovation:** While cloud-native tooling and technologies varies with each hyperscale partner, access to innovation is at the team's fingertips

By seamlessly connecting business functions across the enterprise, the cloud has transformed ERP into a holistic tool for organizational oversight, optimization, and innovation.

Despite these advantages, however, businesses face hurdles in adopting new strategies for enhancing or transforming their ERP workloads.

Cloud managed service providers offer invaluable expertise and experience in navigating the complexities of ERP migration, integration, and ongoing management. With deep knowledge of both legacy and modern ERP landscapes, MSPs guide businesses through the transition, ensuring minimal disruption and maximizing the return on ERP investments.

By leveraging MSP expertise, enterprises can confidently embrace ERP and cloud modernization, achieving new levels of performance efficiency and strategic innovation—all while remaining secure and optimized.

Embracing Modern Work Environments

The rapid evolution towards modern remote and hybrid work environments is not just reshaping the physical workspace but also fundamentally driving companies towards a deeper integration of cloud and cloud ERP solutions.

This shift is propelled by the need for collaboration across geographically dispersed teams. The embrace of a remote work environment, digital collaboration tools, and agile methodologies has increased the reliance on robust and cloud-powered infrastructures to support more dynamic work models.

A well-managed cloud environment powers successful modern work environments by:

- ▶ **Facilitating Real-time Collaboration:** Enabling geographically dispersed teams to work together seamlessly and in real-time as needed
- ▶ **Enhancing Data Accessibility:** Providing instant remote access to information, ensuring all decisions are based on current data
- ▶ **Streamlining Operations:** Automating routine tasks and integrating business functions to maintain efficiency and consistency across decentralized environments
- ▶ **Ensuring Security and Compliance:** Protecting sensitive data and meeting regulatory standards in a remote work settings
- ▶ **Promoting Scalability:** Allowing businesses to easily scale operations to meet changing demands without significant IT investment
- ▶ **Driving Cost Savings:** Optimizing costs of end user compute with modern cloud-based delivery of applications and data

Cloud managed service providers are indispensable partners for businesses navigating the intricacies of cloud and ERP integration within modern work paradigms. With their specialized expertise, MSPs adeptly tailor these technologies to meet the demands of remote or hybrid work models, ensuring the seamless operation of cloud and ERP systems but also reinforcing security and compliance frameworks.

Their comprehensive approach to managing the modern workplace infrastructures allows businesses to concentrate on core objectives, fostering innovation and growth. Through the support of MSPs, organizations can confidently embrace the shift towards modern work environments, leveraging the full potential of cloud and ERP solutions to thrive in today's digital-first world.

Choosing the Right Cloud Managed Service Provider

Selecting an adept managed service provider (MSP) is key to unlocking the full potential of your cloud and ERP strategies. A great MSP provides more than just technical support; it brings a deep bench of cloud management expertise, robust engineering partnerships with leading cloud providers, and tailored support that adapts to your unique business journey—from initial cloud adoption to ongoing optimization and innovation acceleration.

When choosing your cloud managed services provider, prioritize these essential qualities that reflect a commitment to both operational excellence and strategic growth:

- **Deep Technical and Strategic Expertise:** Opt for an MSP that combines a strong command of cloud technologies with a comprehensive understanding of ERP systems, optimizing both in ways that are tailored to your specific needs.
- **Strong Industry Partnerships:** Your ideal MSP maintains deep engineering relationships with top cloud providers like AWS, Microsoft Azure, and Google Cloud Platform, giving you insider access to the latest cloud innovations and technologies.
- **Financial and Strategic Support:** Look for an MSP that provides access to funding for migrating enterprise workloads and the strategic foresight to invest in your long-term success.
- **Visibility and Performance Metrics:** Choose an MSP that provides clear visibility into your enterprise cloud deployments and access to detailed performance analytics, enabling data-driven decision-making and continual refinement of your cloud strategy.
- **Security and Optimization:** Ensure your provider can architect secure enterprise workloads that are continuously optimized to align with evolving business needs, supporting current operational demands as well as future initiatives and innovations.

When you partner with an MSP that has these qualities and capabilities, you can ensure that your cloud and ERP initiatives are not just supported but are poised to thrive in today's dynamic digital landscape.

Your partnership will empower your organization to leverage cloud technologies for enhanced efficiency, innovation, competitive advantage, and growth.



Accelerate Your Cloud Strategy with Protera

Your journey toward a cloud-enabled future requires the right strategic partner by your side. With Protera as your managed IT services provider, you gain access to a trusted team of experts who will guide you every step of the way—from discovery to migration and beyond.

With deep technical cloud and ERP knowledge, Protera offers a suite of comprehensive services that optimize cloud infrastructure, enhance security, and drive continuous innovation. Our managed services have a three-pronged focus:

- **Modern Cloud:** We help you drive the greatest value from the cloud through extended cloud adoption and optimization strategies to drive down cost, enhance security, and enable continuous innovation across the business.
- **Modern ERP:** Whether modernizing SAP ECC cloud environment or transforming to S/4HANA or RISE with SAP, our proactive end-to-end managed services ensure your mission critical enterprise workloads are secure, available, and optimized.
- **Modern Work:** Our services can guide you in extending the cloud capabilities across the business with agile, flexible, and fully governed expansion solutions to elevate employee experience.

Embrace the future with confidence—choose Protera so you can unlock the full potential of your cloud and ERP environments to propel your business forward.

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