Open Hybrid Multicloud:

The AI Enabler Every Government Agency Needs

AS ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE finds its way into our everyday lives, it's becoming clear that the technology is no longer a futuristic concept, but it is the future. AI has a huge amount of promise for government agencies offering opportunities to optimize and automate processes that free up staff to focus on innovation and improving constituent services.

AI is already delivering on that promise for agencies, with 65% of state government CIOs reporting that the AI tools put in place to address the pandemic have delivered on the anticipated results, according to a recent survey from the Center for Digital Government (CDG) and NASCIO, underwritten by IBM. And it's not just state governments that are turning to AI, nearly half of defense agencies surveyed in another recent report said they were already implementing the technology beyond the piloting phase.

As agencies across the government landscape begin to adopt AI at a more rapid

pace, it's crucial that they consider which IT environments will best serve their AI workloads without adding unnecessary complexity, skyrocketing budgets or limiting innovation. An open hybrid multicloud environment, or one that includes a mix of public cloud, private cloud and on-premises security, can offer government organizations the architecture they need to tap into AI effectively.

Hybrid Multicloud Meets AI

AI is, and will continue to be, a massively powerful tool for government, but to stand up this capability effectively agencies must first think about their data. Namely, they need to consider how to govern, organize, store and manage the data that informs AI- and ML-backed tools throughout the data lifecycle. An open hybrid multicloud approach offers agencies the flexibility they need to do so effectively, securely and without unnecessary costs.

The last several years have proven that agencies need IT environments that can enable them to pivot and scale up operations at a moment's notice in order to respond to new or increased demand. A hybrid multicloud environment can offer agencies the flexibility they need to scale with data from various sources.

Moreover, this flexible scalability that comes with open hybrid multicloud infrastructures will save agencies money, allowing them to avoid the added expense that comes with maintaining large amounts of digital capacity when not in use.

However, as today's cyber landscape is becoming increasingly fraught and data in the cloud is increasingly vulnerable to cyberattacks, security must be top of mind for agencies. As they look to protect themselves from potential nation-state threats, rising ransomware attacks and other malicious actors, they need tools that can protect their data and AI workloads at every turn. An open hybrid multicloud infrastructure offers access to confidential computing and AI-powered defense tools that are designed specifically for government users.

Improved Innovation, Experience

In addition to automation and security, AI also helps agencies expand their capacity for innovation. The potential of AI fostered in a hybrid infrastructure can help move government agencies typically rigid, risk averse cultures to ones of experimentation and progress.

According to IBM's recent report *Government on Open Hybrid Multicloud*, "open hybrid multicloud enables consistency and portability of business-critical analytics, applications, and processes that can be used to design, mix, test, and deploy new solutions according to citizens' categories and geographical demands — where and when they are needed."

With the flexibility and agility of an open hybrid multicloud environment, governments can shift digital resources to where they're needed most, allowing agencies to better meet constituent demands in new and innovative ways.

Ultimately, as agencies look out at a future rife with opportunities for AI to help meet the mission and serve the people who rely on them, they should ensure that their infrastructure won't hold them up along the way. Open hybrid multicloud can offer the foundation they need to move forward with AI solutions effectively — and within budget.

Learn more about how Presidio Federal and IBM can help your agency implement Open Hybrid Multicloud for AI workloads.