

GET YOUR HEAD INTO THE CLOUD

Like a gathering storm, cloud adoption is reaching critical mass

70% of businesses today are using or exploring cloud computing solutions, with 60% listing cloud as their #1 priority.

Increasingly, cloud adoption is being thought of as a business decision, extending beyond IT to enable other company functions.

WHAT IS THE CLOUD?

It's not quite as nebulous as it sounds.

The cloud is a network of more than 50 million servers sharing information over fiber optic networks running at 200,000x the speed of your home Internet connection.

SaaS Software as a Service

Hosted applications

IaaS Infrastructure as a Service

Servers, networking components, hardware, storage

PaaS Platform as a Service

Operating systems, computing power

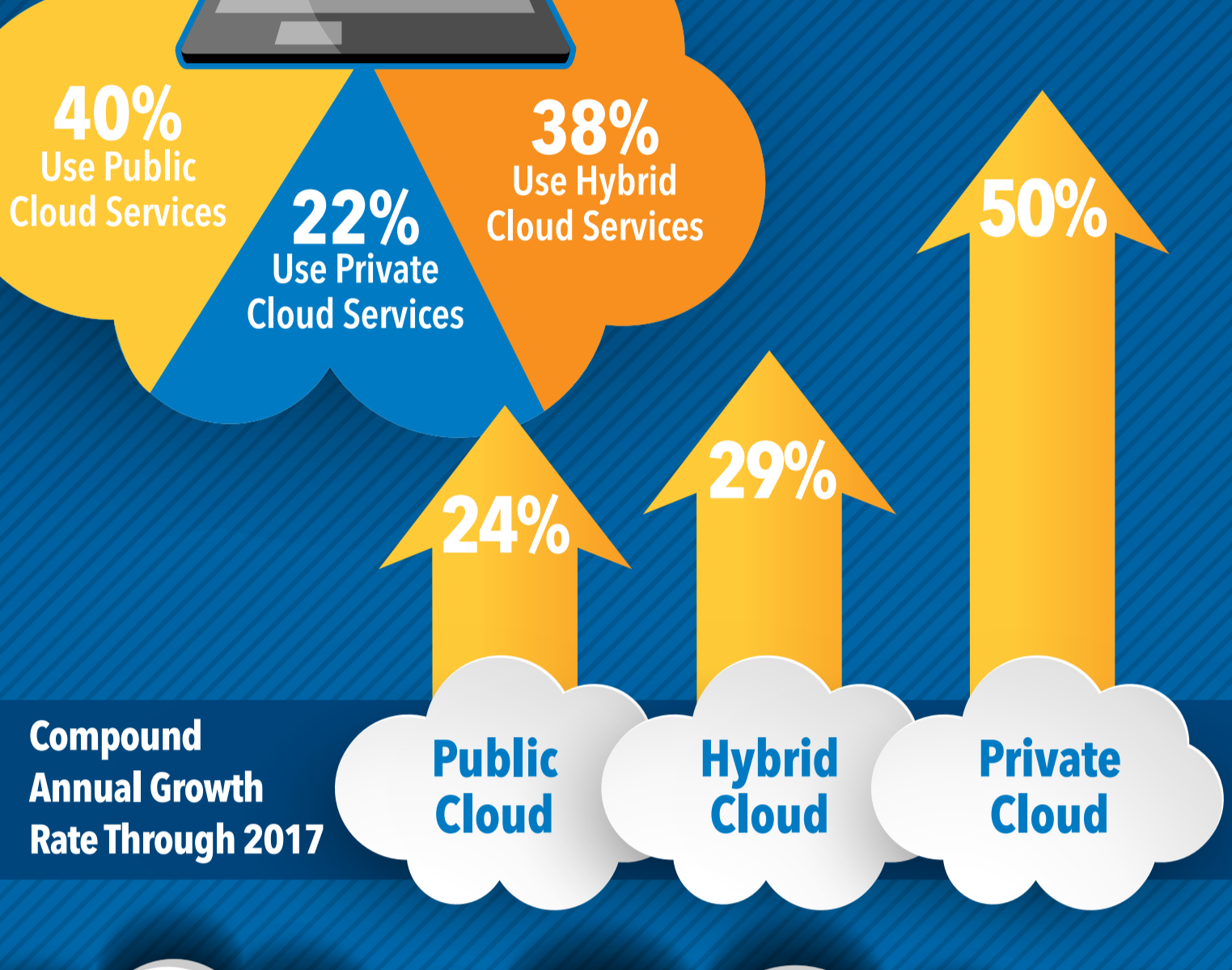
67%

of IT Professionals use Cloud Services & Applications

IS THERE JUST ONE CLOUD?

Clouds come in many different formations.

Organizations can host a private cloud on their own infrastructure for enhanced security; deploy and scale rapidly on public cloud services; or take a hybrid approach for the best of both worlds.



HOW IS THE CLOUD BEING USED?

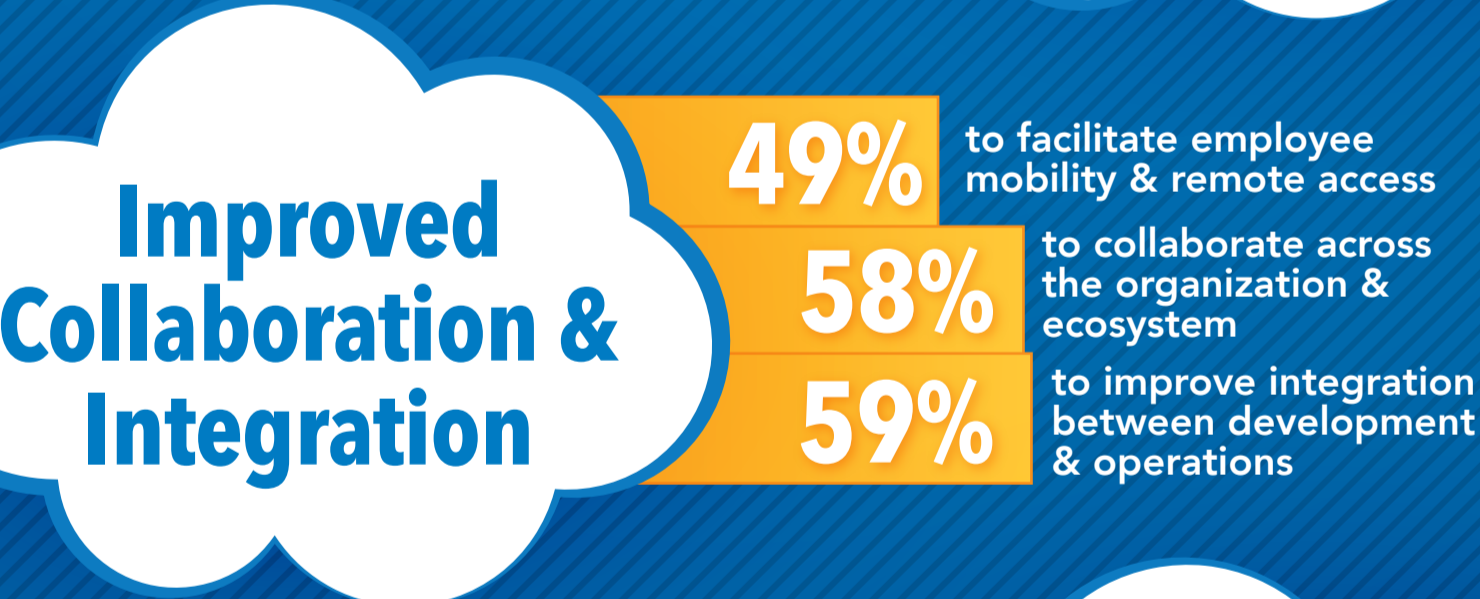
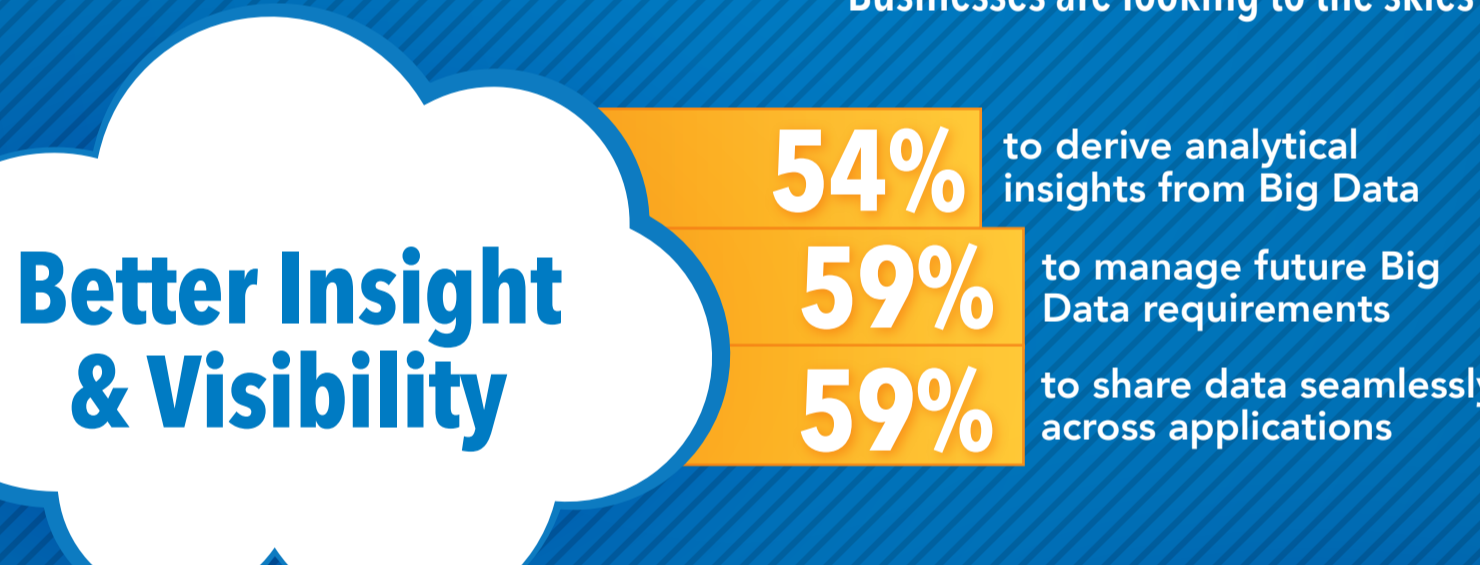
The sky's the limit when it comes to the cloud's capabilities.

Savvy companies are using it for much more than email and messaging applications. Increasingly, the cloud is being leveraged for Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) purposes.



WHAT'S THE CLOUD'S SILVER LINING?

Businesses are looking to the skies



HOW DO I PREPARE FOR THE CLOUD?

- 1 Make sure you have the right network infrastructure in place.**

Why is high-speed networking so important? In 2014, a majority of workloads will be processed in cloud data centers for the first time, by 2017 that number will grow to 63%. Thirty-seven percent of IT decision makers list a cloud-ready network as the biggest element for cloud deployments, ahead of a virtualized data center or service level agreement.

To guarantee the seamless flow of data, you're going to need reliable, high-bandwidth connectivity with symmetrical upload and download speeds.
- 2 Determine your bandwidth requirements, and set rules for traffic prioritization and quality of service (QoS).**

Why does bandwidth matter? 45% of organizations cite bandwidth requirements as a barrier to cloud adoption.

To capture cloud benefits, you need flexible connectivity that easily scales, with proper QoS configuration to ensure your critical applications receive the prioritization they require. Integra's bandwidth calculator can help you estimate requirements. www.integratelecom.com/bwcalc.
- 3 Evaluate the level of mobile device management (MDM), mobile application management (MAM), and security you need.**

Why is BYOD security so critical? 67% of enterprises have plans to issue mobile devices to employees this year.

If you're one of them, you'll need to investigate cloud-based, multi-platform enterprise mobility management solutions that can help you seamlessly transition to the cloud with a simple web-based administrator console to control users and devices in real time.
- 4 Create an actionable plan, with achievable goals and measures of success.**

Where should your aim be? Although the temptation may be to "shoot for the stars," you're going to need to be selective. Determine the areas where a migration could have the biggest impact; prioritize those items; and look for the quick wins.

Be clear on how your strategy will meet business objectives and what the resource requirements are. Create benchmarks, report on progress, and be prepared to adjust as needed.

Ready to get your head into the cloud? Contact Electric Lightwave to learn more about how you can prepare your organization to capitalize on cloud opportunities.

Electric Lightwave offers fully-symmetrical data networking and Internet solutions, our diverse high-bandwidth connectivity over our diverging fiber-optic network from your business to the cloud.

GET YOUR HEAD INTO THE CLOUD WITH ELECTRIC LIGHTWAVE

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