

White Paper

How to Achieve IT at the Speed of the Cloud with Modern Storage Solutions





Drive Transformation, Simplify Complexity, and Accelerate IT with IBM Storage

Today, the future success of organizations depends on how quickly they transform. Global crises, the advent of AI, and other trends have condensed the digitization timeline from years to months. To stay competitive, every organization must rethink the way and the speed at which they operate.

Regardless of an organization's size, time to market, speed, agility, and innovation have become make-or-break factors. To drive digital transformation, the focus must shift to the speed of application modernization, how applications and data are consumed, workforce transformation, and cloud operating models.

Yet challenges stand between most organizations and these goals:

- Most businesses rely on small IT teams with limited budgets and rigid infrastructure
- They are multifaceted, siloed, and hardware dependent
- IT teams and individuals spend most of their time keeping the lights on
- Lifecycle management is consuming and complex
- Scaling is ineffective and expensive

To overcome these roadblocks, increase agility, and drive transformation, IT teams must be able to operate at the speed of the cloud, and one key to achieving this speed is a modernized infrastructure.

The Benefits and Requirements of a “Modernized” Infrastructure

A modern infrastructure supports hybrid IT by managing all clouds as one and by uniting disparate compute, storage, and network resources under a single platform. This frees IT teams from the need to manage an IT environment that will only grow more complex and fragmented. As organizations continue to adopt new technology, expand their hybrid IT environments, and drive digital transformation, modern infrastructures will become increasingly necessary to stay competitive, agile, and cost-efficient.

Whether we refer to modernized infrastructure as the building blocks of the private cloud, the software-defined data center, or the next-generation data center, the same basic principles will be followed to structure and manage on-premises technical resources:

- All physical hardware resources, including compute and storage, are aggregated into one large pool that can be sub-divided and shared for consumption by the business. Logical resources under the hardware umbrella should be managed under a central control plane – or as close to a single control plane as is feasible.
- These shared resources must have, at minimum, a combination of automation, orchestration, and advanced scripting in place. They may have varying degrees of security profiles and governance attached, which may include the utilization of software-defined networking and micro-segmentation. And they may have varying degrees of access control measures.
- Resource consumption should be metered and cost metrics should be applied.
- Production applications must be mobile. For instance, workloads and services could be hosted, at minimum, in two distinct locations to satisfy business continuity and disaster avoidance and recovery.
- The modern infrastructure and the way it is managed is purposefully similar in fashion to public cloud providers, an approach that allows for, as close as possible, seamless integration into consuming public cloud resources and the managing of those resources under the same control plane.



IBM Storage: A Cornerstone of Modern IT Infrastructures

To achieve the aims defined above and to truly achieve IT at the speed of the cloud, infrastructure requires storage that unifies resource management, scales flexibly on demand, offers resilience against cyber threats, and enables seamless operation across on-premises, hybrid cloud, virtualized, and containerized environments. For organizations interested in enterprise-grade storage solutions that meet these requirements, Logicalis recommends several solutions from IBM:

IBM Storage FlashSystem

The unified IBM Storage FlashSystem platform family streamlines administration and operational complexity across on-premises, hybrid cloud, virtualized, and containerized environments, while offering the performance and reliability enterprises need from modern applications.



Cyber Resiliency

Speed recovery from cyber attacks and ensure business continuity with flash storage backup



Streamlined Operations

Simplify operations with a consistent storage software platform



High Performance

Use flash storage for mission-critical workloads and achieve fast response times with low latency and high availability



Flexible Consumption

Get the agility of the cloud and the control of on-prem with storage-as-a-service



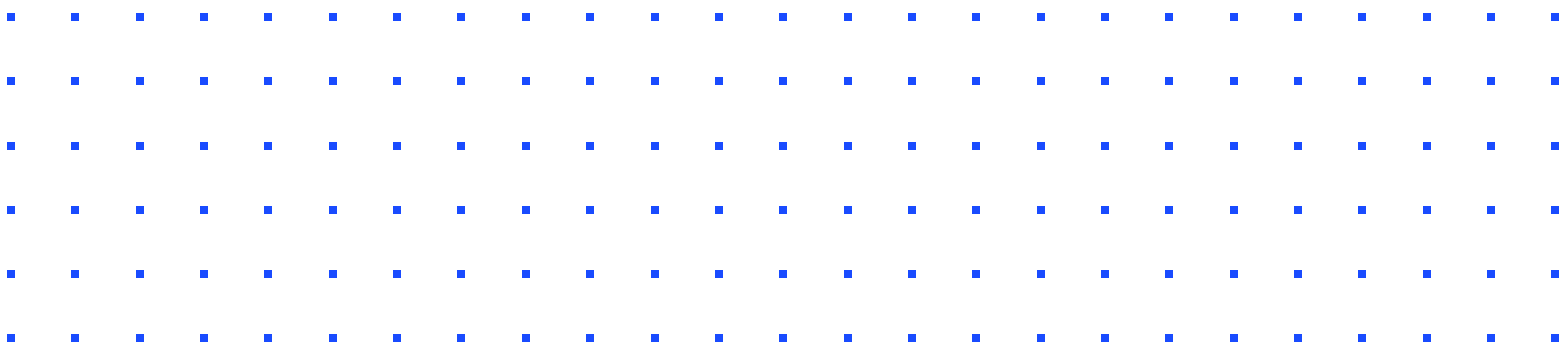
Intelligent Operations

Optimize storage and networking with AI-powered predictive analytics from IBM Storage Insights



Consistent Experience

Enable seamless data mobility and storage with a unified view of your storage



IBM Storage Fusion

IBM Storage Fusion provides software-defined storage and data management for Red Hat OpenShift. It offers enterprise-grade data storage and protection and an agile way to manage, recover, and access mission-critical data as needed.



Organize and Optimize

Get file, volume, and object access to data across disparate sources



Automate Data Protection

Provision data using policies and protection methods from local disc to remote cloud



Storage and Data

Publish storage profiles and protection policies as automated deployment models



Adjust Resources Seamlessly

Shift data from one repository type to another without the need to refactor



Access Data Universally

Access data across platforms and locally across the information estate



Adopt New Services

Roll updates into data services automatically and without intervention

IBM Storage Scale

Accelerate AI with a global, high-performance data platform designed for next-generation data services. IBM Storage Scale opens the door to greater efficiency, performance, and sustainability, while reducing risk and optimizing all workloads.



High-Performance Object Storage

Give applications a high-performance S3 interface to file and object data



Kubernetes and IBM Storage Scale

Simplify Deploy and grow storage quickly with Container Native Storage's high-performance interface



Plug-and-Play Data Services

Manage software services easily, with capabilities for AI, HPC, and enterprise workloads



Cloudera and IBM Storage Scale

IBM Storage Scale Hadoop connector supports Cloudera Analytics and Spark



NVIDIA and IBM Storage Scale

Support for GPU direct storage (GDS) and NVIDIA SuperPOD, as well as new NVIDIA AI solutions



IBM Cloud Pak for Data with IBM Storage Scale Container Native

Use IBM AI tools, including Watson Knowledge Catalog, Watson Studio, and more



Modern Infrastructure Solutions from

IBM and Logicalis

Unifying and managing IT resources through a single control plane is key to seamlessly integrating disparate and fragmented IT environments, helping organizations reduce risk, complexity, and cost, while enhancing security, performance, efficiency, and flexibility. A cornerstone of this approach to infrastructure is storage, and IBM Storage provides an excellent set of solutions for enterprises that are ready to upgrade and modernize their infrastructure.

About Logicalis

Logicalis is a global MSP and an IBM partner with extensive experience helping organizations transform, manage, maintain, and run their infrastructures at peak performance. As Architects of Change, Logicalis helps organizations plan and execute the IT transformation they need to succeed in today's competitive digital world.

For more information about the partnership between Logicalis and IBM, please visit www.logicalis-hub.com/ibm/storage.

For a free, in-depth executive briefing on the IBM Storage solutions covered in this guide, please schedule a free consultation at www.logicalis-hub.com/ibm/storage.