

A Decision Guide: On-Prem vs. Private vs. Public vs. Hybrid At-a-Glance



On-Premises

Private Cloud

Public Cloud

Hybrid Cloud

Cost

High Cap-Ex

Predictable

Variable,
usage-based

Mixed

Performance

Predictable,
hardware
limited

High &
consistent

High but
variable under
multi-tenants

Tunable per
workload

Control & Governance

Maximum control,
customer-managed

Maximum control,
customization

Provider-driven
control

Control where
needed

Data residency

Customer-
controlled

Guaranteed in
Canada, as
required

Region-based,
may replicate

Residency
enforced for key
data

Elasticity

Limited by
hardware

Scales within
reserved capacity

Virtually unlimited

Burst to public,
when needed

Compliance

Audit-heavy

Strong isolation,
tailored audits

Broad certifications,
shared tenancy

Map controls per
workload

Time-to-Value

Slow, cycle-based

Rapid for steady
workloads

Fast for greenfield

Depends on
integration pattern

Compatible Workload Types

Legacy, static,
latency-sensitive

Steady-state,
compliance heavy

Global scalability,
highly variable,
seasonal, dev test
environments

Blend of stability
with elasticity

Infrastructure Ownership

Customer-owned

Owned by MSP

Owned by cloud
provider

Mixed

Support

Customer-owned

End-to-end support
provided by MSP

Support provided by
internal IT or
outsourced MSP

Mixed