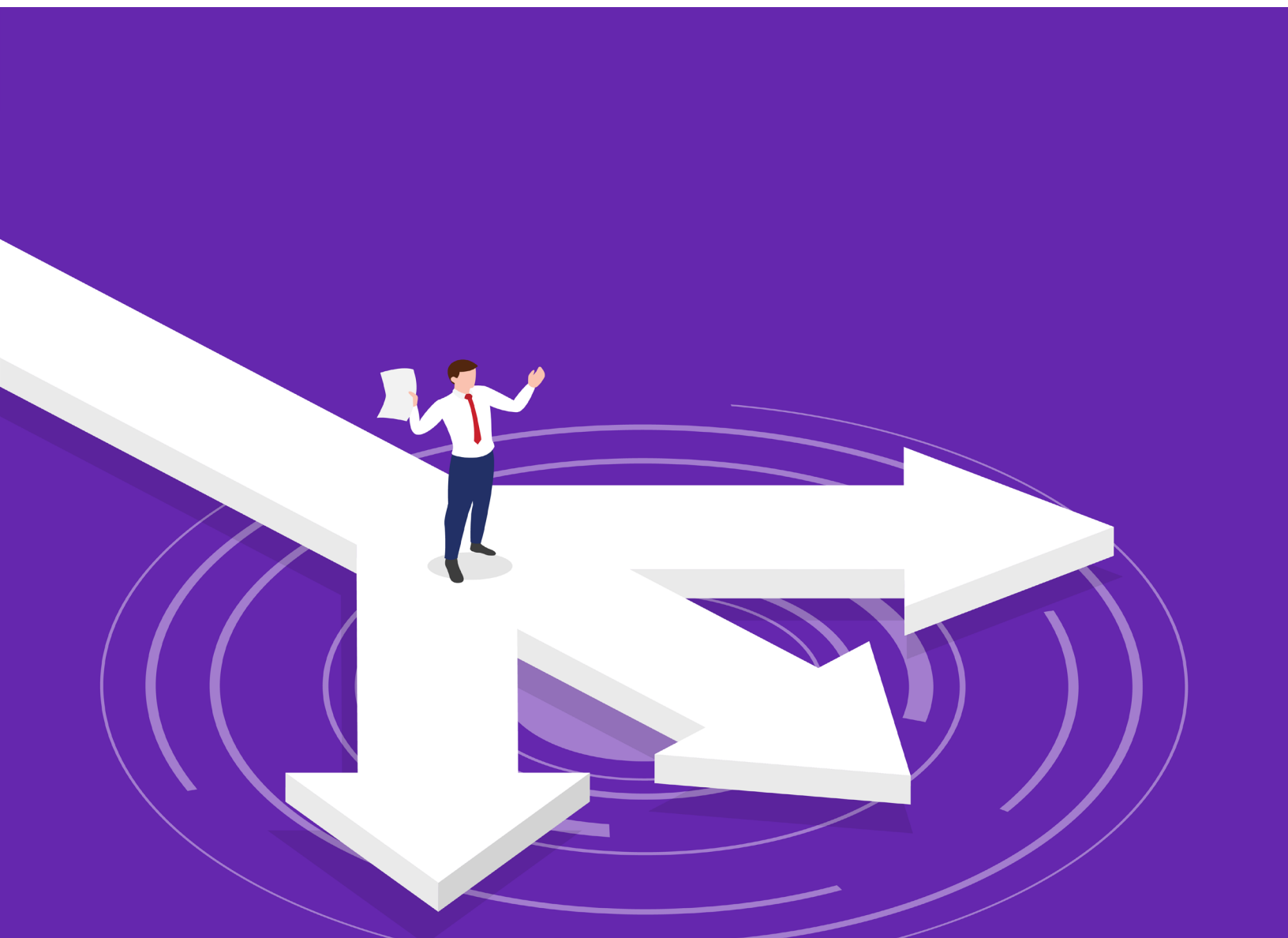# PLATFORM9

The "just right" approach to cloud native

Balancing complexity and cost

Executive Summary

IT leaders are under pressure to adopt cloud-native solutions like containerization and orchestration. But finding a suitable option can be difficult with limited options and conflicting demands for faster development, enhanced security, cost-effectiveness along with higher performance and uptime.

Companies most commonly take one of two directions to jump-start their cloud native journey.

Public cloud Kubernetes
which can be expensive and can lock you in to specific infrastructure and services.

DIY approach
maintains flexibility and control, but is difficult, time consuming, requires OpEx and hard to find talent

In today's difficult economic environment, both may appear to be a luxury with reduced budget and headcount. A better way to go cloud native would be to find a solution that is well suited and combines the strength of each path.

This white paper explores **the third approach that is neither too expensive nor too complex.**
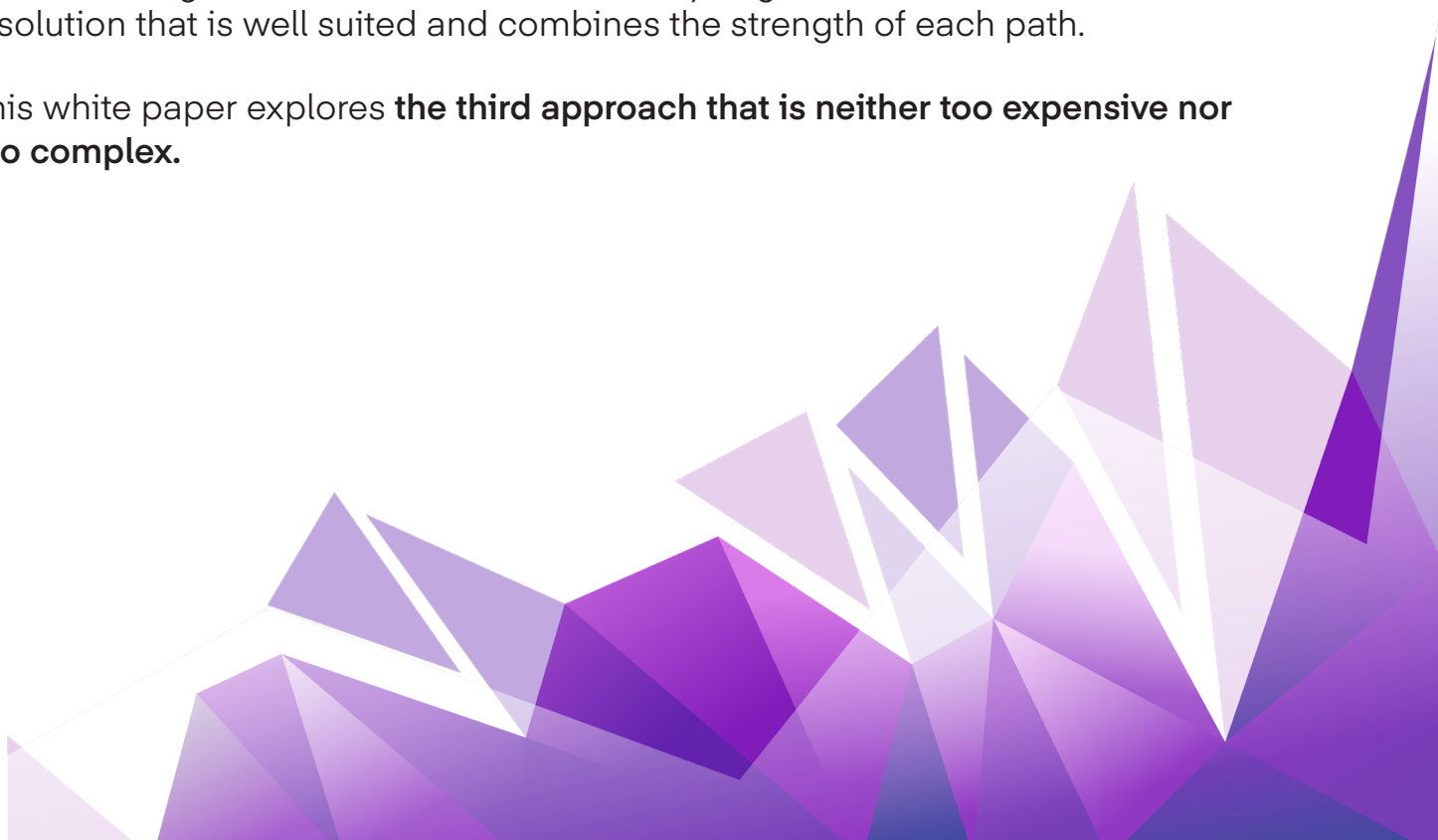
Finding a better way to cloud native

Deloitte emphasizes the importance of going cloud-native for enterprises to remain competitive. [Gartner listed](#) cloud native as one of its 2022 Top Strategic Technology Trends – a list that identifies force multipliers for innovation and digital business.

Applications and workloads built for cloud platforms and technologies can provide the resiliency, scalability, speed, and agility needed to compete in today's market and meet customer demands. However, transitioning to a cloud-native environment is not a quick or straightforward process. It requires thoughtful planning and time to determine the best path for your business to move to the cloud.

Moving to a cloud-native environment can seem daunting with limited budgets, reduced staffing, and questions about essential infrastructure and apps. The journey towards cloud-native can seem like a luxury amidst current challenges.

Where companies find themselves today?

Early adopters have already chosen their path towards cloud-native, but for others, the decision is complex. Containerization and Kubernetes bring agility and speed for growth, but supporting infrastructure presents challenges for various businesses.

- Large enterprises struggle to move away from on-premises infrastructure due to prior investments.

- Lack of tools, processes, and skills hinders cloud-native migration.

- Economic challenges and reduced budgets may lead to short-term solutions instead of long-term benefits.

- Skills gaps can prevent organizations from choosing the right path to cloud-native.

- Business or regulatory compliance concerns may limit the use of public cloud solutions.

All of these challenges roll up to what a company can prioritize today, maximizing existing resources and infrastructure while meeting high competitive pressures in today's economy. Moving legacy systems, VMs and monolithic apps to the cloud can be complex, requiring a carefully planned approach to balancing short-term hurdles with long-term goals. Traditional options for a cloud-native journey have benefits and challenges, but may not be the most efficient or effective solutions in today's climate.

Traditional path to cloud native

When considering their cloud native journey, most organizations think there are only two paths.

Public cloud

Public clouds may not be suitable for those needing on-prem or edge service. They have the pre-built tools and solutions but there are challenges too.

- Vendor lock-in to provider's infrastructure and services.
- High cost and complex cost-management.
- Risk of budget waste and limited future cost savings.

DIY approach (self-managed)

While the custom container solution has an advantage of flexibility and control, it requires sepcialized and hard to find skills in cloud computing and container management.

- Requires investment in operational expenses and time (both in setup and maintenance).
- Requires teams to manage the infrastructure, including at the edge.

The third option to going cloud native

Contrary to the traditional belief, there is a third option for going cloud native that combines the simplicity of public cloud with the control and flexibility of DIY Kubernetes. **Platform9 offers a container management and orchestration solution that supports the entire cloud native journey on any infrastructure.** This option offers the best of both worlds, avoiding the downsides of public cloud and DIY solutions.

With Platform9, businesses can have the best of both worlds - the ease-of-use and support of public cloud with the flexibility and control of any infrastructure. You can rapidly build highly available Kubernetes clusters, enjoy white glove managed operations, and scale clusters and applications across distributed locations with a single pane of glass.

Our open-source stack allows for a gradual transition to containers at your own pace, without requiring extra infrastructure. We use Kubevirt to bridge the gap between VMs and containers, offering a unified development platform for building, modifying, and deploying applications in both VMs and containers, and the ability to manage, orchestrate, and monitor across those applications.

Simplify operations

Reduce maintenance cost
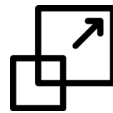
Scale as you grow

No vendor lock-in

What Platform9 delivers

Platform9's solution offers four key elements that make it a better choice over public cloud and DIY implementations.

The promise of Always-on Assurance™

Platform9 combines automated infrastructure operations – including remote monitoring, auto-healing, and auto-help-desk-ticket generation with a team of certified Kubernetes experts to ensure maximum uptime, proactive issue resolution, and guaranteed SLAs.

A cloud-agnostic management plane

Our SaaS-based management plane gives you the power and control for continuous deployments and governance across any public cloud IaaS, data center, or even to 1000s of edge locations.

A unified platform for VMs, monolithic apps, and containers

Switching to cloud-native isn't always possible. Managing VMs, legacy apps, and containers requires different tools. Refactoring apps to containers based on speed, needs and cost savings, using a single platform reduces management and skills needed.

Built on modern open cloud foundations

Leveraging the latest innovations from the cloud native community, Platform9 future-proofs your transformation without compromising stability, security, or mission-critical robustness.

Conclusion

Going cloud-native isn't easy, but containers and Kubernetes are important to application flexibility. Traditional methods cause headaches with added costs and operational complexities. **Platform9 offers a better solution for a full cloud-native journey with expert support and cost-efficiency. A simpler and smarter way to go cloud-native.**

Platform9 simplifies operations, reduces maintenance costs, increases uptime, and scales as you do, on any infrastructure, any location, providing a right sized solution for your path to cloud native. It is the only solution that provides full cloud native lifecycle support wherever it is required, as well as expert managed support and an *Always-on Assurance™.*

Save money, reduce overhead, accelerate application delivery, and shift to governed and secure container strategy.

Interested in learning more?

Platform9 offers a free, no-obligation workshop that can help you identify the right container strategy, lower your cloud costs, and run your Kubernetes at scale.

Talk to our wizards

Contact us: https://platform9.com/contact/

About Platform9

Platform9 is the only container management and orchestration solution that supports the complete lifecycle of the cloud-native journey on infrastructure anywhere. Our unique management plane simplifies operations, including observability & monitoring, increases uptime, minimizes costs, and scales as you scale. Built on open foundations, our platform enables enterprises to keep up with the ever-changing cloud-native ecosystem. Our cloud-native wizards provide Always-on Assurance™ every step of the way to ensure a smooth, simplified journey. Innovative enterprises like Juniper, Kingfisher Plc, Mavenir, Redfin, and Cloudera achieve 4x faster time-to-market, up to 90% reduction in operational costs, and 99.99% uptime.Platform9 is a better way to go cloud native, paving the way for an open distributed cloud

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