FORTRA

Control the Cloud with Managed File Transfer

How your cloud initiative can be as smooth, secure, and effective as possible

Foreword

The way businesses operate has undergone a radical shift because of digital transformation. The cloud ecosystem is where most of the action is now. All industries, from the most traditional to the most cutting-edge, are adopting cloud infrastructures. Data has emerged as an asset for all cloud-based organizations. Managing data effectively in the cloud has allowed us to begin appreciating the value-added services provided by the cloud ecosystem. There are several benefits to collecting and storing data on the cloud, including financial savings, adaptability, scalability, portability, enhanced security, facilitated collaboration, and fresh insights gained from an enterprise's data assets.

Challenges

With cloud computing, businesses no longer need to invest in and manage expensive hardware and software systems. Cloud providers store it in their own facilities and deliver it "as a service" to their clients. As a result, the rate at which data is being transferred to the cloud is rapidly increasing.

As more and more businesses move to a multi-cloud strategy, transferring data between cloud platforms will become a crucial aspect of the migration process. Businesses, however, need to be aware of the following significant challenges and take measures to overcome them.

Legacy Processes and Ineffective Management

Many firms still rely on legacy procedures and processes when transferring sensitive files from on-premises to the cloud or across different cloud providers. However, traditional file transfer measures are insufficient in a multi-cloud scenario.

For example, a well-known hospitality company used a homegrown, legacy file transfer solution to transfer files. The solution was creating stability problems and daily incidents and could not effectively manage the increasing number of data transfers. Furthermore, the system did not allow the lodging company to connect with external partners or to integrate with the main cloud platforms and their file repositories.

Challenge:
When pursuing their cloud strategies, many businesses forget that in addition to apps, they also are moving their sensitive data to the cloud. To tackle the challenge of securely migrating this data, they tend to rely on traditional file transfer methods, only to discover that these are insufficient for a digital, cloud-first organization.

Solution:
A Managed File Transfer (MFT) solution developed for the cloud can be a strong ally for your organization when moving to the cloud. Fortra's GoAnywhere MFT is a secure file transfer solution that helps organizations automate data transfers, improve security and compliance, centralize file transfer activity, and accelerate business growth.

Benefits:
- Manage your file transfers
- Configure your transfers from anywhere
- Meet security policies and compliance requirements
- Integrate with favored web and cloud apps
- Translate files to and from various formats

Lack of Control

As more and more data is stored in the cloud, the question of who controls it becomes increasingly important. Both from a security and compliance perspective, this is an urgent matter. Penalties could result from a personal data breach if data transfers are not adequately managed.

In a real-world scenario, a large healthcare organization had to both comply with strict security requirements for medical file transfers and perform batch file transfers efficiently and effortlessly. In addition to a high volume of primarily patient and financial files, vendors the hospital works with also have compliance and security standards to meet.

Complexity Risks

The process of migrating your data to the cloud may appear simple at first glance, but it is much more complex. If you are considering migrating your data to the cloud, you should ask questions such as, "Where does this data live?" or "Which systems have access to this data?" and "Is it feasible to transfer this data to the cloud?".

If you need to transfer information between several cloud services, you can run into an even bigger headache. Can this data be transferred across cloud platforms? As a result of all the added complexity, operational expenses and security threats are likely to rise.

Security vs. Employee Experience

Data security is what underpins all file transfer challenges. Although cloud security is a shared responsibility between the cloud provider and the cloud customer, the security of data in the cloud is the sole responsibility of your organization.

For instance, a leading North American transportation and logistics organization relies largely on secure, fast data delivery and exchanges with their many trading partners to ensure operations continue smoothly every day. The number and variety of partners they work with each day means that there is also a wide variance in the types of security requirements the company needs to satisfy.

However, security should not come at the expense of your employees' user experience with a more secure file transfer method. Therefore, the add-on challenge is balancing two issues that seem at odds – security and usability. If you ruin this fragile balance, you will feel the repercussions on both business productivity and data security.

Solution

Moving to the cloud often prompts people to look at a secure file transfer solution. There are many protocols and methods for transferring data with customers and trading partners, all with varying benefits and drawbacks. Cloud platforms offer native tools for transferring data, but they are not interoperable with other cloud uses and configurations. This results in companies having disparate methods of sharing data which can become confusing, ineffective to manage, and hard to keep secure and compliant.

A Managed File Transfer (MFT) solution encompasses all aspects of inbound and outbound file transfers while using industry-standard network protocols and seamless encryption.

A solution like GoAnywhere MFT can help streamline and automate data exchange between disparate cloud platforms and across your network, systems, applications, and partners, all from one centralized user interface. GoAnywhere provides users and administrators with a role-based security framework for logging into and accessing the system, with two-factor authentication, and encryption of all files and data while in transit and at rest. This helps enterprises automate and streamline their sensitive data exchanges while maintaining compliance with industry standards.

GoAnywhere can be used by organizations of all sizes for encrypted file transfer needs, ranging from a few dozen a week to a few thousand a day.

5 Questions and Answers to Consider

Where do your most critical workflows happen, on-premises or the cloud?
This might help you decide on MFT hosted in the cloud, on-premises, hybrid, or both.

Do you need an MFT solution that is "transparent," whether information flows happen on-premises, cloud, or hybrid?
You probably want to be able to create complex automations abstracting from the technology stack that is involved so it doesn't require IT resources with low-level knowledge of each.

Are you moving to a pure cloud infrastructure, or will you still be operating as a hybrid mid- or long-term?
Most companies will have use cases that interconnect on-premises and the cloud. Being able to deploy MFT whenever you want and with agents to automate processes on systems whenever they are deployed can be a critical capability to allow for a smooth migration to the cloud.

Do you need MFT as a cloud service, or should you operate one yourself?
If you decide to operate it yourself, consider evaluating if the solution will fit your existing deployment strategy, i.e., if it can be deployed in containers/dockers, scale, load balance, and others.

What kind of data are you going to process?
You must check that information transfers happen with appropriate security/compliance levels. This can be more challenging in the cloud, so you might benefit from providers offering features like encryption at rest and other characteristics that meet your business requirements.

Contact Us

Data is neither static nor locked into one place. Data must be securely in motion for the benefit of the business. Our eBook on Managed File Transfer features insights from industry experts to help your business thrive and grow securely in the cloud. Download the eBook here or request a demo of GoAnywhere MFT.

About BlueFinch-ESBD
Organisations rely on BlueFinch-ESBD to make IT lives easier and keep business running smoothly. We specialise in data protection and compliance by encrypting and securing data, and provide easy access to the information people need. BlueFinch-ESBD is Diamond certified implementation and support partner of Fortra.