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## This report looks at the following areas:

- How the already dynamic growth of cloud computing was further accelerated by the COVID-19 economic disruption and is ideally suited for further uncertainties.
- How cloud computing is emerging from its embryonic state and incorporating an ever-increasing range of services.
- How cloud offerings are equating the competitive landscape for SMEs who
  now have access to technologies such as Al and ML that would previously
  have proved prohibitively expensive.
- How cloud computing can contribute to corporate environmental initiatives.
- How the American and Chinese technology giants are competing for global positioning.

The growth of cloud computing continues to gain pace globally, with the vast majority of companies adopting hybrid and multi-cloud strategies, thereby circumnavigating early concerns of supplier lock-in. The vast majority of multi-cloud adopters have moved to a hybrid strategy (80%), with just 2% using multiple private clouds and 7% using multiple public clouds.

Cloud computing is an architecture that is ideally situated to economic vagaries, and the uncertainties created by the Ukraine conflict and the consequent inflation are making its flexibility and scalability even more attractive while actively contributing to superior cyber security and productivity.

While there are few challenges to the growth of cloud computing, individual corporate challenges continue with the most frequently identified issues including understanding app dependencies, assessing the technical feasibility of cloud computing and comparing the costs with on-premise alternatives.

One of the benefits of opting for cloud computing is that it enables costeffective access to emerging technologies for both enterprises and SMEs alike.



"Cloud computing remains in its developing stages of adoption, but has proved a highly attractive architecture during the disruption of the pandemic and is ideally placed to address the current economic disruptions mainly caused by the fuel-based inflation resulting from the Ukraine conflict."

Terry Leggett, Senior
 Analyst, September 2022

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Many of these technology developments such as Al, ML, IoT, and VR are voracious producers of further computing capacity, which effectively furthers the appeal of the architecture.

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