

The logo for colt, featuring the word "colt" in a bold, lowercase, teal-colored sans-serif font.

**Fast lane or dead-end:
Where's your cloud
migration journey
headed?**

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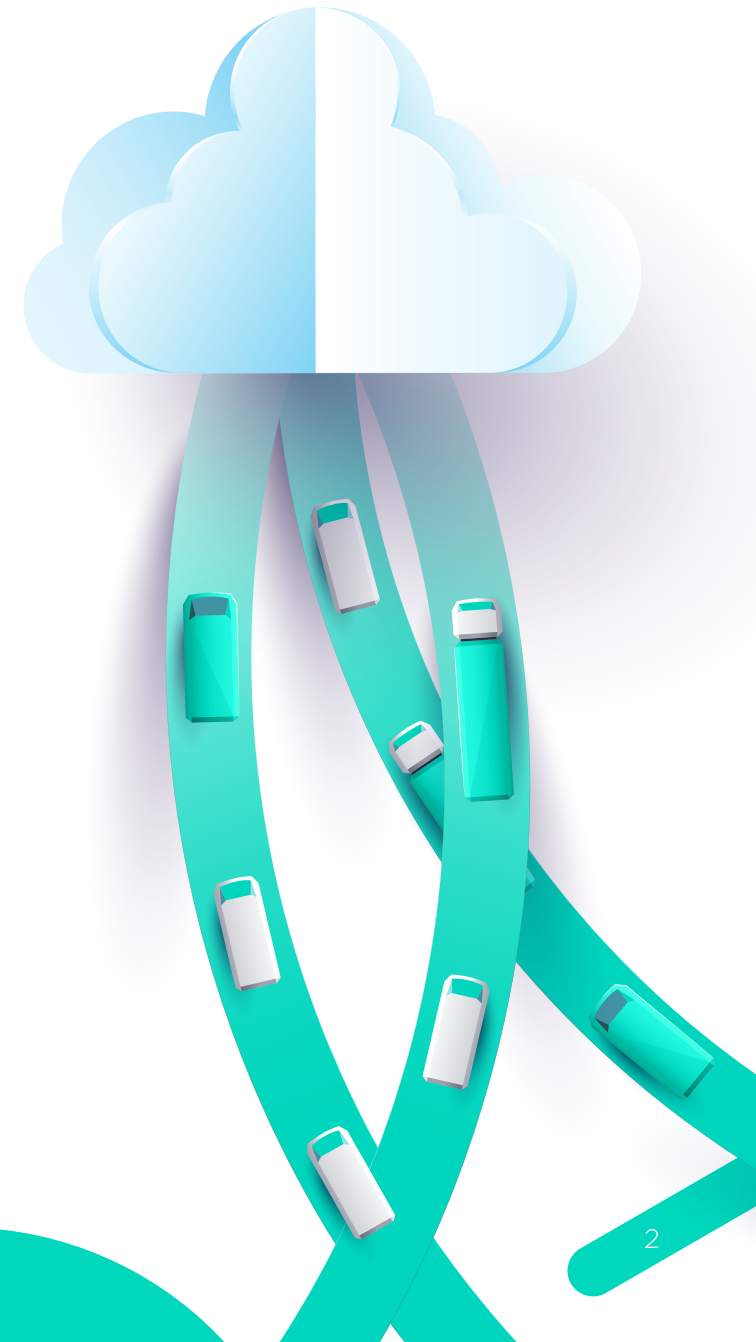
Fast lane or dead-end: Where's your cloud migration journey headed?

We've been talking about digital transformation for over 20 years, and our research shows it continues to be top of mind for many organisations. Whether it's the new challenges of hybrid working or ongoing attempts to replace legacy technology, enterprises are looking to the cloud for answers. Chances are you're already partway on your cloud journey, or you're looking at new projects that require cloud computing or connectivity.

We often talk about cloud migration as if it's a singular object, but it has many components. From budgets to technology, partnerships to ongoing market trends. These components need regular checks to make sure they're up to standard and aligned to your cloud goals.

Think of it as taking your car in to be checked. The car itself is a singular object, but all the parts that make it up need reviewing and testing to make sure it gets you safely where you need to go.

Let's go through five areas you need to check to make sure your cloud project is on the right track.



What budget have you set against your cloud project?



Fuel is the most crucial aspect of a car; without it, the car won't go anywhere. Similarly, in any cloud migration, the budget makes or breaks the project. No budget, no cloud project.

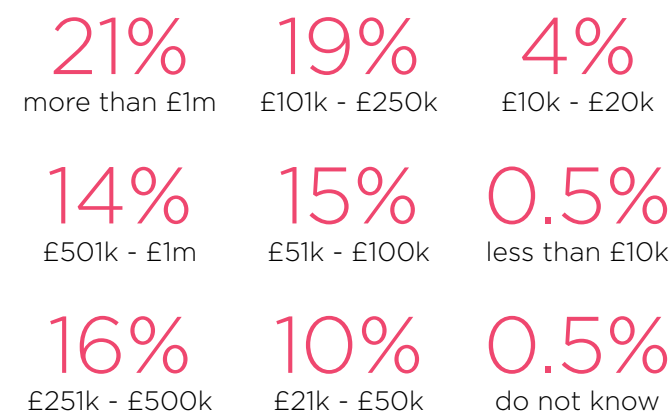
In our 2021 cloud research report, we saw investments in the cloud outweigh a large proportion of overall enterprise IT budgets. This reflects a growing belief that a move to the cloud is strategically essential and likely to produce the tangible returns that justify its cost.

And yes, cloud migration comes at a cost. It can take time and effort to get right. But the alternative of doing nothing is no longer a realistic choice. Our cloud research from 2020 shows that delays to a cloud project can be measured in hundreds of thousands of pounds. The likelihood of project success is increased by planning and being prepared for your journey.

How much are you looking to spend on your cloud migration?



What is the size of your budget for IT? (per annum)



What are your peers doing?



Every so often, it's good to look at what your peers are doing. Where are they placing their strategic priorities? What technologies are they investing in? What cloud framework and infrastructure are they using? What mission-critical applications do they have in the cloud?

Think of it as the car's steering. Is the direction you're heading in aligned with your peers in the market? Does it need tweaking? Sometimes you won't have the same goals, direction or control as your peers, but it's good to check before you go too far and hit a dead-end. Taking the time to plan your route based on your organisational goals will keep you in line for the long run.

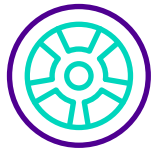
What applications are the focus of your next cloud project?

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| 1 Customer Relationship Management (CRM) 57% | 2 Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) 54% | 3 Collaboration tools 42% |
|--|--|---|

In the next 5 – 10 years, what are you looking to move to the cloud?

46%	44%	43%
High performance computing	Big data analytics	AI

How are your partners supporting you?



When you're implementing the cloud or migrating, you need partners to support you. Like the wheels of a car, they provide critical support and keep you moving.

Few enterprises have the IT expertise in-house to tackle cloud projects on their own. When you choose to work with a cloud, integration or connectivity partner, you're buying their technical knowledge and experience. We've found that while tried and tested partnerships are preferred, new network, cloud and integration partners still make up 20-30% of projects. With existing partnerships, you get the reassurance as they've proved themselves useful allies in the past. With new partnerships, you may find they support you in a way your previous partners didn't.

Think about how your current partners support you. Do they bring the knowledge and expertise you need to your projects? Do they work within a 'tried and tested' ecosystem? If not, a new set of wheels can help accelerate your cloud journey.

Who are you working with on your next cloud project?

50%

Existing cloud service provider

38%

Existing system integrator

34%

Consultant

33%

Existing network provider

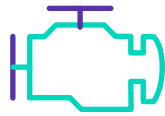
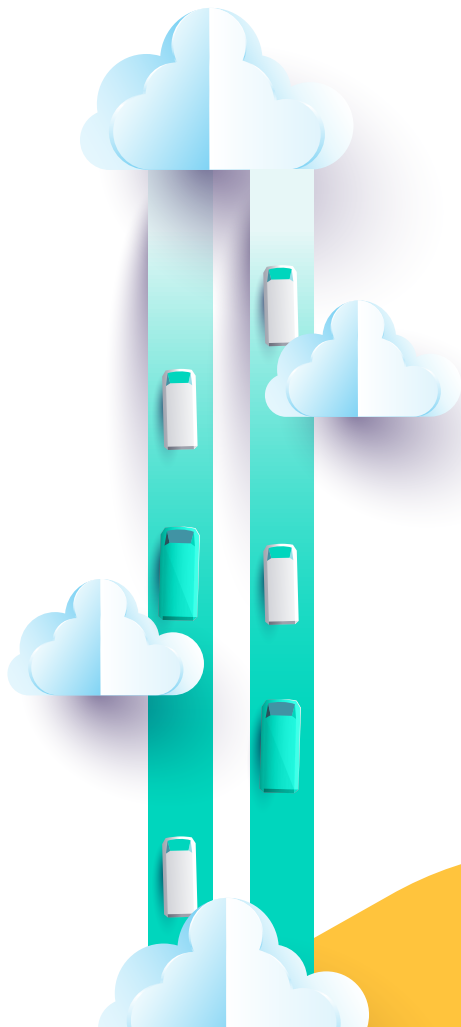
31%

New network provider

49%

chose to work with their partners due to their technical knowledge

What technologies are you using?



The engine controls the speed of the car, and it needs to work properly. Taking stock of the technologies you are using to support you on your cloud journey is vital.

There's plenty of evidence to indicate enterprises are leaning towards newer technologies to help reach cloud goals. Older technologies, including connectivity standards like MPLS and VPN, are still widely in use, valued for their dependability. But on their own, they're not suited to solve all the challenges of the cloud era. The need to flexibly connect widely distributed endpoints in support of a multi-cloud or hybrid cloud strategy is something they weren't designed to tackle. Instead, enterprises are looking to alternative solutions built with the cloud in mind. These are driven by software and were created to offer maximum flexibility and agility.

Take a look at the technologies you are using to drive your cloud migration. Are they based on legacy technology? Do you have the resource to maintain them? If they don't work properly, how much will that delay you?

What technologies are you using to hit your cloud goals?

56%

Application programming interface (API)

47%

Edge computing

43%

AI

45%

said flexibility was a key reason for these technologies delivering on their cloud objectives

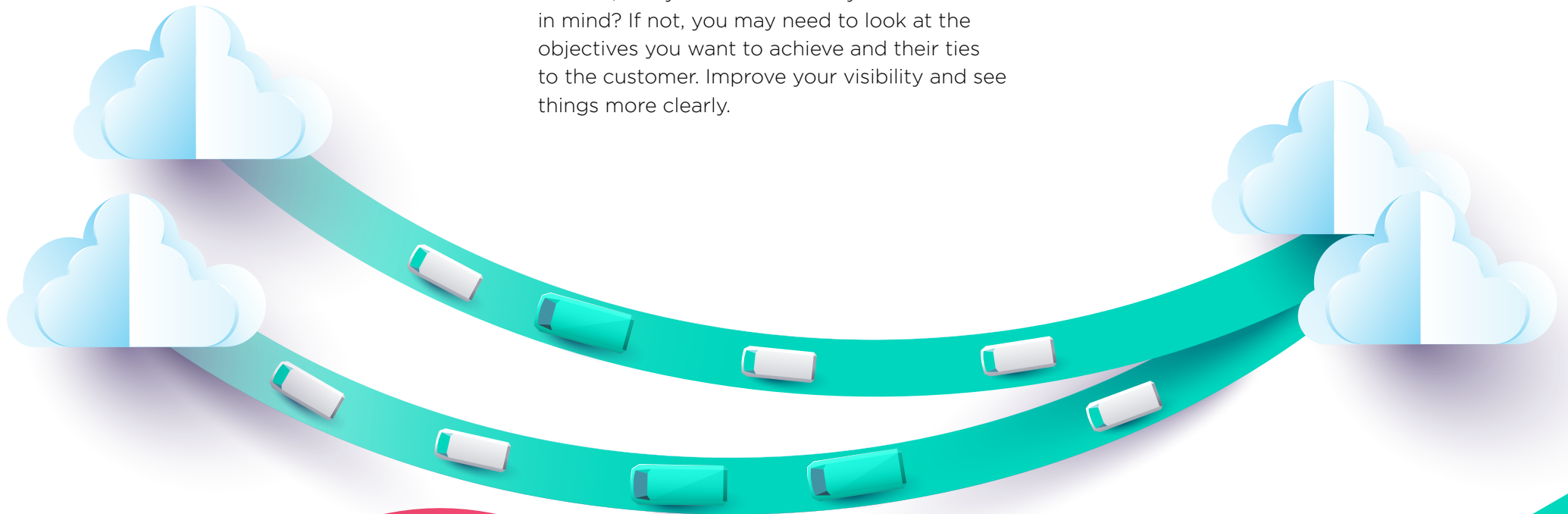
How closely are your cloud goals linked to your customer experience?



When undertaking a cloud project, there's an end-user in mind, typically your customer. What you achieve with your cloud project will have a knock-on effect on your customers and their overall experience with your company. Ask yourself if the goals of your cloud project positively or negatively affect your customer experience (CX).

Liken this to the windscreen of a car. If you look at where you're heading and what you want to achieve, can you see that clearly with the CX in mind? If not, you may need to look at the objectives you want to achieve and their ties to the customer. Improve your visibility and see things more clearly.

96% said their cloud objectives were either very close or somewhat close to their businesses customer experience objectives



Can you keep your cloud in the fast lane?

Now is the time to check your cloud components and see how they compare. Ask yourself the following questions and see if you need to change some of your cloud parts:

- Have you set enough budget to fulfil your cloud project, its goals and any potential delays?
- What are the trends in the market for cloud?
- What are other organisations moving to the cloud that could also strategically benefit your business? How could you learn from their use cases?
- Do you have the right partner ecosystem to support your cloud project?
- Is your cloud project introducing new technology, and how well equipped are you to implement it?
- Is legacy technology hindering the effectiveness of your cloud project?
- How closely are your cloud project goals linked to customer experience?

If you want to learn more about what is driving the next era of cloud adoption, [download our 2021 cloud research report today.](#)

For more information visit: **www.colt.net/solutions/cloud**
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