



ai-automation

Where Should Your Business Actually Run?

Infrastructure strategy should not begin with a company-wide choice between cloud and on-premise. It should begin by placing each workload where it best supports continuity, coordination, control, performance, cost, and change.

A multi-branch retailer made the trade-off clear. Stores needed enough local capability to keep selling during connectivity outages, while loyalty balances, customer identity, promotions, and reporting needed central coordination across every location. Neither a fully local nor a fully centralized design could meet both needs.

Key ideas

- 01 Local execution and central coordination can coexist. Branch operations may continue during an outage and synchronize later, while the business maintains a shared view of the customer.
- 02 Hybrid infrastructure is a result of differing workload requirements, not a strategy by itself. A deliberate architecture explains placement, data ownership, synchronization, security controls, failure behavior, and future review conditions.
- 03 Cost extends beyond compute and storage. Operations, integration, resilience, security, data movement, downtime, support, scaling, and the difficulty of later change all affect the decision.
- 04 Infrastructure is best managed as a portfolio. Operational systems, customer platforms, analytics, financial databases, backups, and AI workloads can each justify different placements.
- 05 AI does not require moving the entire environment to the cloud. Data can remain where operational, regulatory, security, or performance needs dictate, while controlled services connect it to elastic AI capabilities elsewhere.

What this means in practice

Map important workloads before selecting platforms. For each one, ask what happens when connectivity fails, whether data must be consistent across locations, what controls and latency it requires, how quickly demand changes, and whether its current placement remains efficient.

Closing takeaway

Do not decide where the company should run. Decide where each workload can best serve the business, and revisit that decision as regulations, connectivity, usage, growth, and technology change.

WHERE SHOULD YOUR BUSINESS ACTUALLY RUN?

The best answer is not either cloud or on-premise. It's placing **each workload** where it creates the **most value**.

