

When data drives missions, agencies need cloud capabilities - and a plan

Agencies across the Federal government are overwhelmed with the influx of data. Continuous streams of data are generated from multiple sources, and are spread across systems, databases, and formats. As more data comes in, maintaining data quality becomes a challenge.

Data has evolved from being a mere outcome of mission activities to a crucial factor that shapes them. Missions are developed, deployed, adjusted, and deemed successful based on data.

When data drives missions, agencies need a modern infrastructure to collect, store, organize, and analyze data across all collection points - and across divisions, departments, and agencies. They also need a data management plan.

That's where modern cloud capabilities play a significant role.

The current data landscape in government demands a transformative approach to data management, and cloud capabilities play a pivotal role.

By adopting cloud-native solutions, agencies can break down data silos, integrate disparate datasets, and establish seamless data-sharing mechanisms across various government entities. Cloud capabilities facilitate real-time data processing and analysis, empowering agencies to derive timely insights and enable better decision-making processes.

However, cloud technologies alone are not sufficient. Agencies need modern data management strategies that incorporate cloud capabilities in order to fully adapt to the data-driven paradigm.

Data Management Cloud Migration are Intertwined

A data management plan is a comprehensive approach that enables agencies to establish data standards, formats, and definitions, creating consistency - and opportunities for interoperability - across the enterprise. Data management plans allow agencies to implement processes that ensure accuracy, completeness, and reliability of collected data. They also reduce duplication of effort, redundant storage, and inconsistent data management practices.

Data initiatives outlined in a data management plan require scalable infrastructure to accommodate growing data stores that are offered by modern cloud capabilities. Scalable features of cloud provide the infrastructure, unlimited storage capacity, and advanced analytics tools required for large-scale ingest, rapid analysis, and long-term retention of the massive volumes of data that are needed to drive modern missions.



Given that cloud capabilities – be it private, hybrid, public, multi, or purpose-built cloud – are required for effective data management, cloud migration roadmaps and data initiatives should be approached and developed together. By doing so, agencies can optimize their data management practices and gain insights that lead to better mission outcomes.

Chief Data Officers: Incorporating Cloud Modernization into Data Initiatives

As agencies recognize the strategic importance of data to drive missions, the role of chief data officers (CDOs) is increasingly prevalent. CDOs lead data management initiatives, establish effective data governance, and promote data integration and analytics. They also develop mechanisms to enhance data sharing, interoperability, and collaboration, breaking down data silos that typically hinder information exchanges within and between agencies.

To succeed in their mission, CDOs should work with the agency information technology (IT) teams to incorporate cloud capabilities into data initiatives. By leveraging cloud-based analytics tools and solutions, CDOs can empower agency leaders to derive actionable insights from data, driving innovation and informed decision-making across the organization.

CDOs are a relatively new role, and many agencies have yet to appoint one. Those that do are facing an uphill battle as they grapple with taking control of massive amounts of data while also working through modernization roadmaps.

As the role of CDO becomes more defined, there will be a growing demand for data project managers, similar to IT project managers working under chief information officers. These data project managers will leverage modern project management tools and platforms

to ensure seamless coordination, efficient resource allocation, and successful execution of data initiatives, further strengthening the CDO's impact on agency-wide data-driven transformation.

Maximus - A Partner at the Center of Data Management and Cloud Infrastructure

Maximus, a trusted government partner, collaborates with CDOs and other agency IT leaders to help establish robust data management strategies and build modern cloud infrastructures that meet agency missions.

Leveraging its deep knowledge of public programs and more than 40 years of experience developing high-quality services and solutions, Maximus partners with agencies to understand objectives, assess current data management practices, and define a roadmap to achieve desired outcomes.

Because cloud capabilities are crucial to data management, Maximus guides agencies in evaluating and selecting the right cloud environment to meet their data management needs. Maximus also helps agencies migrate data to the cloud, implement data analytics platforms, deploy advanced analytics tools, and develop data models.

An agency's various teams are key to its data strategy. Maximus trains agency staff on data management best practices, promotes data literacy, and facilitates cultural shifts towards data-driven decision making, with the goal of building internal capabilities and expertise in data management practices.

Effective data management supported by cloud computing is crucial for government agencies in the modern era of data-driven decision-making. A modern infrastructure, complemented by a well-thought-out data management plan, will lay the foundation for agencies to thrive in this data-powered era.

Learn more about Maximus and its Federal data management and cloud capability support at: [maximus.com/federal](https://www.maximus.com/federal)