Accelerating innovation at scale: A platform-centric approach to hybrid cloud automation

How embracing standardization and policy-driven automation can help platform teams accelerate delivery cycles and navigate the complexity of hybrid cloud environments

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Introduction

Imagine that you're leading a platform team that is trying to support a new product launch deadline. But your organization uses 15 different tools, has workloads running in six different cloud environments, as well as onpremises, and your developers are bypassing security protocols in order to ship on time. Sounds complicated, right? Well, the truth is that, here at HashiCorp, we hear variations of this same situation day in and day out from new clients looking to mitigate these issues. The details might be slightly different, but it always boils down to one thing: complexity.

So what's driving this complexity?
Well, 62% of companies report lost time-to-market due to fragmented cloud tools and missing automation, and 85% of organizations report that siloed teams are causing fragmented workflows and slower handoffs. Add to that the fact that 81% of enterprises are using multiple cloud providers, which makes managing infrastructure even more complex.

Different clouds, different tools, different processes — it's a lot to keep track of and is definitely not a setup that is conducive to delivering innovation quickly.

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The Infrastructure Cloud from HashiCorp helps organizations unify their entire digital estate on a unified cloud platform to:

- Strengthen Security and Governance
- Accelerate Delivery and Innovation
- Optimize Cloud Operations and ROI

Access these three whitepapers to learn more about how you can gain more value from doing cloud right with HashiCorp.

The speed dilemma: Delivering quickly, while maintaining efficiency and security in hybrid cloud environments

In today's fast-paced digital landscape, competitive pressures and the introduction of new technologies commonly drive market changes. Companies must respond to these changes quickly to maintain competitive advantage and customer satisfaction as well as to meet revenue goals. After all, it is often the first to field a new product or initial idea that captures market share and profits. However, technical decision makers must ensure their teams feel empowered to enable developers to confidently innovate, while still maintaining efficiency and security. This balance is more feasible when the environment is small and the tech stack is largely homogeneous, but achieving this at scale across hybrid and multi-cloud environments, however, remains a significant challenge.

We find that technical leaders and their teams consistently report the following top three challenges:

Slow, manual processes
Traditional deployment processes are often complex and require significant manual intervention. This complexity can lead to deployment errors and extended release cycles.

Siloed teams
When teams operate in silos, there are often fragmented workflows and slower handoffs between development, operations, and security teams. These delays reduce agility, cause friction, and conflict with the fast-paced demands of modern software delivery.

Infrastructure dependencies for hybrid deployments
Diverse tools and processes across environments lead to inefficiencies and increased potential for errors. Furthermore, managing multiple disparate tools and processes leads to team burnout at a time when skilled IT talent is in short supply and retention is critical.

In this white paper, we will explore how automation and standardization delivered by HashiCorp's Infrastructure Cloud, powered by the HashiCorp Cloud Platform, helps platform teams empower developers to go from idea to impact faster — without sacrificing control or security.

Rapid application delivery: Operational inefficiencies create delivery bottlenecks

Many organizations are still struggling to automate and secure their developers' environments as well as the CI/CD pipelines that they leverage. This slows down their delivery timelines and significantly puts them at a competitive disadvantage.

Let's consider the following scenario.

It's Monday morning. Your development team is ready to ship an update to your AI-driven application. But they're blocked — again — waiting on infrastructure, compliance reviews, and secrets provisioning. What should be a push-button deployment becomes a multiday process, delayed by handoffs across teams. You're losing time, momentum, and frankly, developer morale.

You're left scratching your head. You've invested in the cloud. You've implemented CI/CD practices. But the silos, tool fragmentation and lack of consistency across environments are killing velocity — and your top talent is stuck waiting instead of building.

And this isn't rare. In fact:

75%

of developers report losing between 6-15 hours weekly due to tool sprawl

2.4 hours

lost daily by employees from inefficiencies caused by siloed workflows and manual data reconciliation

63%

of IT teams manually correlate data from five or more tools in hybrid and multi-cloud environments, wasting 12+ hours per employee weekly.

The HashiCorp Cloud Platform: Enabling teams to launch faster and scale smarter
Now let's fast-forward to what the 'after' scenario would be like with the HashiCorp Cloud Platform.

Same Monday morning — but now, that same developer kicks off a new environment with a one-click self-service workflow. Infrastructure is provisioned in 15 minutes, not 30 days. Secrets are injected automatically. Security policies are already in place. The entire pipeline — from provisioning to deployment — is automated, secure, and audit-ready.

This shift doesn't just improve productivity — it directly impacts your DORA metrics:

- **Deployment frequency**: With streamlined workflows, teams can deploy more frequently, reducing the time between releases.
- **Lead time for changes**: Automated provisioning and deployment pipelines shrink lead times from weeks to minutes, accelerating the delivery of new features and fixes.
- **Change failure rate**: By enforcing consistent, policy-driven workflows, the rate of deployment failures decreases, enhancing system stability.
- **Mean Time to Restore (MTTR)**: With versioned infrastructure and improved observability, teams can identify and resolve issues faster, reducing downtime.

How does this transformation happen?

The HashiCorp Cloud Platform is purpose-built for the enterprise and delivers a comprehensive portfolio of infrastructure lifecycle and security lifecycle management services to easily empower developers to deploy applications consistently across the entire software supply chain through a single, simple workflow.

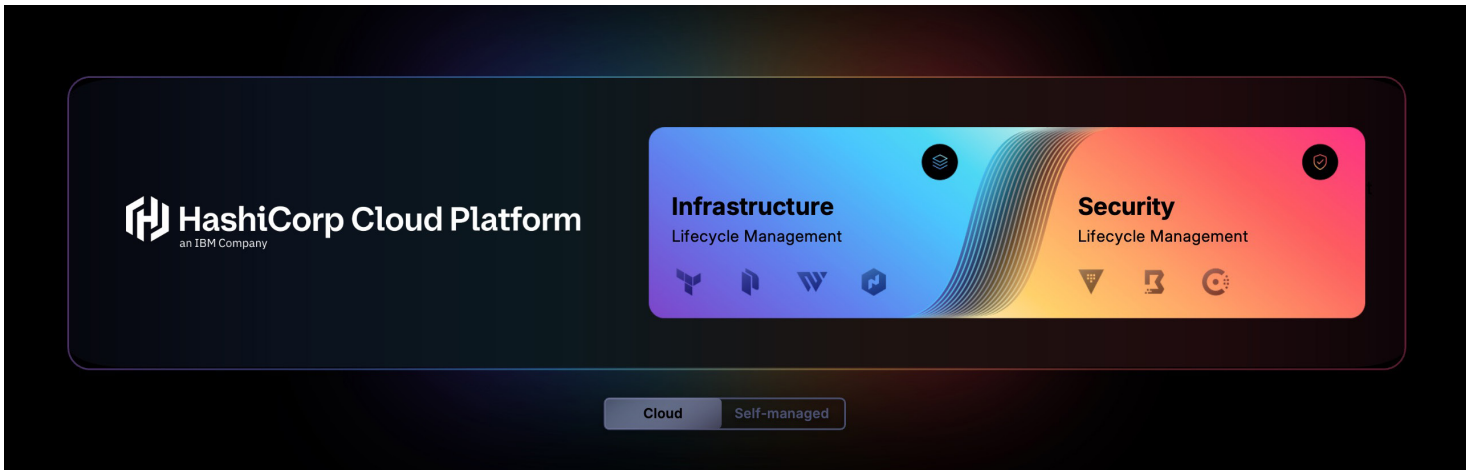
Amongst its many use cases, platform engineering teams use the HashiCorp Cloud Platform to **accelerate development environment provisioning and build a more rapid CI/CD pipeline by:**

Enabling turn-key self-service infrastructure for development teams, giving them the autonomy to provision, manage, and decommission the infrastructure and resources they need.

Extending self-service deeper into the software supply chain so that the complete developer toolchain is properly integrated and ready to deploy.

Building guardrails directly into the provisioning process, empowering development teams to provision resources autonomously within pre-defined boundaries.

Streamlining the security of your CI/CD pipelines, ensuring that exposed secrets are identified before they are deployed to production.



This is how automation propels more rapid application delivery — not just faster, but safer and smarter.

How automation propelled efficient application deployments at BT Group

BT Group, one of the UK's largest telecommunications companies, had a clear mission: reduce infrastructure complexity and improve the speed at which development teams could deliver applications to production.

But as demand grew, the weight of manual processes and inconsistent deployments began to slow them down.

The shift happened when BT Group adopted the HashiCorp Cloud Platform to automate infrastructure provisioning and standardize deployment workflows. Instead of scripting infrastructure changes manually or coordinating across disconnected tools, teams now operate within a governed, unified control plane.

The impact was immediate:

- **Deployment times dropped from 1–3 days to just 10 minutes**, allowing product teams to ship faster and iterate more frequently.
- **90% of deployment tasks were automated**, freeing engineers to focus on innovation rather than operations.
- **Infrastructure costs were reduced by 80%**, a major win for both engineering and finance teams.

These aren't just IT stats — they reflect business agility, developer satisfaction, and a more scalable operating model for the enterprise.

BT Group

"HashiCorp helped us move seamlessly, allowing teams to focus on application development rather than cloud provisioning"

Tom Davies
Principal Software Engineer, BT Group

High velocity teams: From reactive chaos to proactive collaboration

Speed alone isn't enough if teams can't work together. Once infrastructure provisioning is streamlined, the next challenge is eliminating the human handoffs and silos that kill velocity.

And, in a world of snowflake deployments and shadow IT, centralized collaboration isn't a nice-to-have, it's a matter of survival.

To put this into perspective, consider the following scenario:

Before

A large enterprise was managing application deployments across AWS, Azure, and on-prem environments. Each team — developers, platform engineers, and security — had their own tools, processes, and priorities:

Developers manually requested infrastructure or created their own, often bypassing policies, leading to shadow IT.

Platform teams were overwhelmed by Slack threads and tickets, constantly firefighting failed provisioning runs.

Security teams were left to retroactively patch compliance gaps and respond to audit findings.

Infrastructure as code (IaC) was inconsistently applied — with many developers copy-pasting modules without validation.

A single misconfigured environment led to a costly data exposure incident — something that could've been caught by automated policy enforcement.

This might sound like an extreme case, but it's not entirely inconceivable.

After

The HashiCorp Cloud Platform: Driving efficient and secure collaboration
By adopting the HashiCorp Cloud Platform, this same organization transformed fragmented, manual processes into a consistent, automated, and secure workflow, eliminating operational friction, encouraging cross-team collaboration and enabling more seamless handoffs.

Here's how:

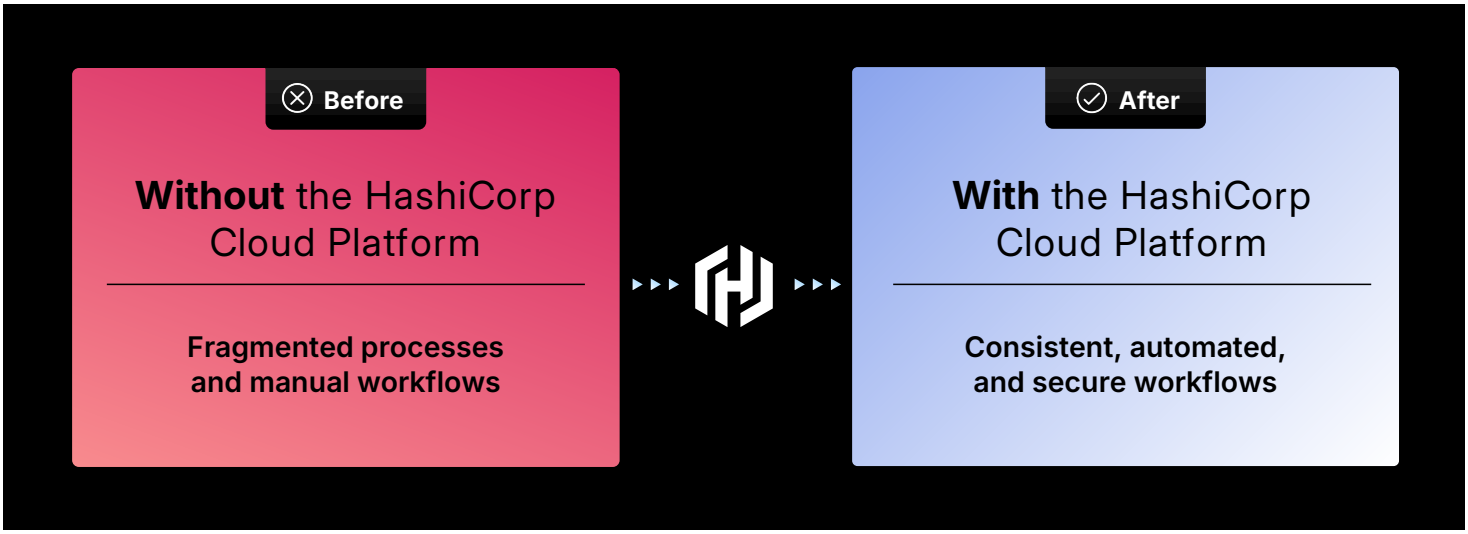
No-code workflows: New developers now onboard in minutes, not days, using intuitive, no-code workflows powered by pre-approved modules. They don't need to navigate complex scripts or processes — they just request the infrastructure they need, and it's provisioned securely and consistently.

Integrated version control system (VCS)-driven IaC pipelines: Teams now trigger infrastructure changes directly using VCS integrations. This enables accelerated feedback loops, encourages cross-team transparency, and allows for real-time synchronization, making changes trackable and reducing drift.

Embedded policy guardrails: Platform engineers set governance policies once, and those policies are enforced automatically with every provisioning run. No more latestage security rework — guardrails are built-in from the start.

Automated secrets and access workflows: Secrets are no longer shared over Slack or hard-coded into pipelines. Instead, secrets are injected at runtime, access is tightly controlled, and collaboration between development and security teams is seamless.

Now, instead of reacting to production issues over Slack, platform teams proactively enable innovation by offering secure, compliant, and reusable infrastructure.



Empowering teams at scale with governed self-service and automation at Roche

When Roche set out to modernize its cloud infrastructure, it faced a familiar challenge: how to move faster without sacrificing security or control. As a global healthcare leader, maintaining compliance and operational rigor wasn't optional — but neither was accelerating time-tomarket for new services.

The HashiCorp Cloud Platform became the foundation for Roche's infrastructure and security strategy, enabling them to shift from slow, manual processes to streamlined, policy-governed automation.

- **20% less manual effort** across development teams translated directly into faster onboarding and fewer delays in the software delivery lifecycle.
- **Centralized secrets management tightened Roche's security posture**, making it easier to enforce compliance without slowing teams down.

More importantly, developers no longer had to wait months to access infrastructure. With the HashiCorp Cloud Platform powering automated workflows and self-service provisioning, the experience fundamentally changed — from slow and reactive to fast, secure, and automated.

"Using automation and Terraform heavily for onboarding our customers in various parts of their journey helped us to accelerate software delivery. It also makes them happy because now they don't need to wait for months to get access to infrastructure. And finally, I think cloud cost and security has improved a lot because of these things."

Harsha Vathsavayi
Product Manager, Roche

Seamless hybrid cloud automation: Hybrid and multi-cloud complexity requires a unified approach

More and more organizations are embracing their own on-prem data centers while also investing and executing on a multi-cloud strategy to both diversify their infrastructure and maximize their ROI. This growing hybrid cloud model, however, introduces deep complexities and operational challenges. This is further made complex due to the existence of multiple runtimes for various applications.

Consider this: You're running workloads across AWS and Google Cloud as well as in a private datacenter. Development teams are spinning up EC2 instances in AWS with ad hoc scripts, while another group manages Kubernetes clusters manually in Google Cloud. Meanwhile, security has no visibility into secrets usage, and your operations team is drowning in tickets trying to track what's running where.

Infrastructure drift is rampant — no one has a single source of truth.

Developers wait days for approvals or debug broken pipelines across different systems.

Secrets are hard-coded or manually rotated, leaving you vulnerable to breaches. findings.

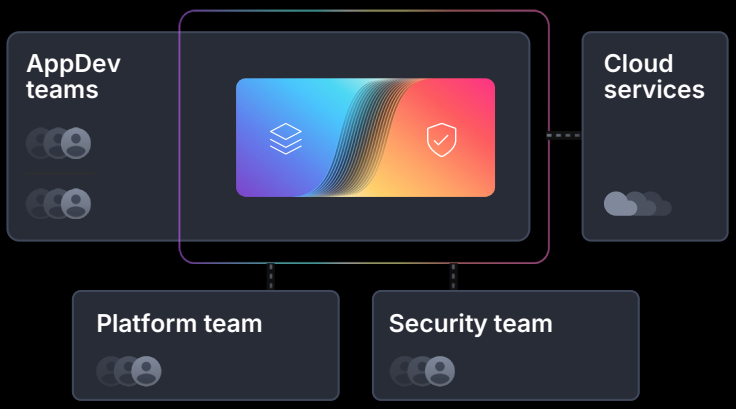
Compliance audits are slow, painful, and error-prone due to fragmented logs and inconsistent enforcement.

What's the result? Productivity drops, cloud spend balloons, security risks multiply, and time-to-market slows.

The HashiCorp Cloud Platform: Driving more efficient hybrid deployments with automation and standardization
With the HashiCorp Cloud Platform, you can streamline automation across your entire estate with:

- **Universal workflows across environments**: Standardize all your automation workflows across your entire hybrid estate.
- **Cross-cloud consistency with shared modules and images**: Create consistency across all multi- and hybrid IaC pipelines through a unified platform.
- **Centralized secrets and access management**: Build a consistent, unified experience for secrets and access management with a unified platform across hybrid and multi-cloud environments.

Unified platform
that connects teams and processes



Additionally, with the HashiCorp Cloud Platform, you can standardize service discovery and delivery with:

- **Platform-agnostic orchestration and service discovery**: Schedule and discover services automatically and with ease across hybrid and multi-cloud, as well as across any runtime.
- **Abstracted developer workflows for application networking**: Improve developer velocity by abstracting away lower-level details for application networking and by providing standardized methodologies for traffic management.
- **Efficient deployments for AI workloads**: Automate, schedule, and discover AI workloads in the most efficient runtime, while connecting to any other runtime seamlessly.

Achieving seamless hybrid cloud automation at Criteo

When Criteo — a global advertising technology company — realized that just four operators were supporting the networking needs of over 500 internal users, the cracks in their approach to hybrid cloud operations began to show. Service delivery was bottlenecked, and scaling infrastructure to meet demand required extensive manual effort.

By adopting the HashiCorp Cloud Platform, Criteo redefined what efficient service delivery looks like:

- **Service discovery that once took 4 hours was reduced to just minutes**, giving teams realtime visibility and agility to support fast-changing application needs.
- **New service rollout times dropped from 3 weeks to 1 minute**, allowing product teams to deliver features faster and capture more value in less time.
- **Manual operations for spinning up services were eliminated entirely**, freeing operators to focus on higher-impact initiatives and improving team morale.

With the HashiCorp Cloud Platform, Criteo didn't just speed things up — they scaled smarter. Standardized, automated workflows empowered their teams to deliver faster, with zero compromise on security or control.

CRITEO

"We're able to register and de-register services instantly, regularly check service health and availability, and automatically back up any upgrades or changes we've made."

Pierre Souchay
Discovery and Security Authorization Lead, Criteo

Conclusion: Enable innovation at scale, without compromise and do cloud right with the HashiCorp Cloud Platform

Cloud complexity is here to stay — but chaos doesn't have to be. Platform teams that embrace a unified, automated operating model are the ones that will lead their organizations forward.

Whether you're running in the cloud, on-prem, or across both, the HashiCorp Cloud Platform offers more than just tools — it delivers the foundation for consistent, secure, and scalable infrastructure across any environment. Whether your future involves AI workloads, edge deployments, or global scale, the HashiCorp Cloud Platform helps you get there faster — with confidence. After all, cloud success doesn't come from moving fast, it comes from moving together. With HashiCorp, you empower every team to build what's next, faster and more securely than ever.

So, do you remember the platform engineering leader who began this journey with scattered tooling, organizational silos and burning deadlines? Well, he has now adopted the HashiCorp Cloud Platform. Using standardized, automated workflows delivered via a single control plane that works seamlessly across all their environments, his team now executes faster, smarter, and more securely.

So if you're asking how to "do cloud right" — this is how.

Contact your IBM Business Partner for more information:

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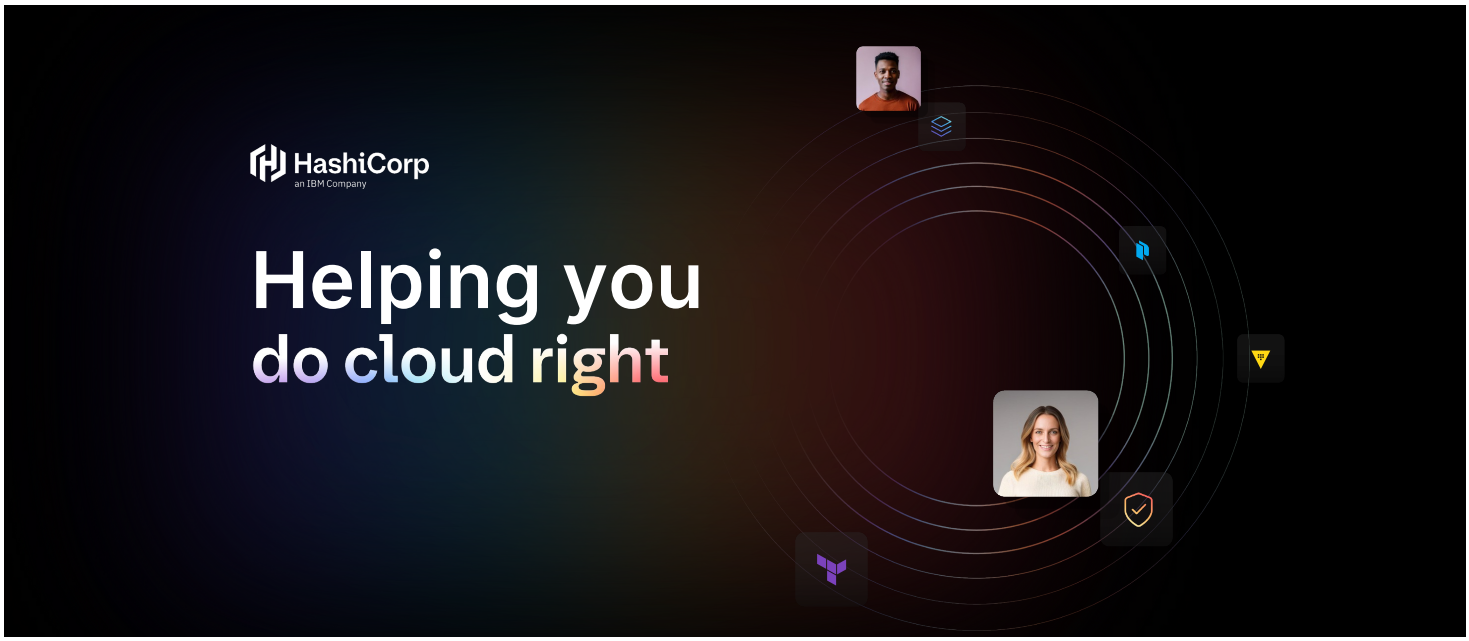

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