



ONE SMALL STEP

Digital transformation to the cloud

INTRODUCTION

In the current climate, the classic business maxim of ‘adapt to survive’ has never felt more pertinent. To remain competitive in a period of extreme disruption, companies know they need to be able to pivot, to be flexible in ever changing conditions. But making the leap from their existing business models, from legacy systems and approaches, to something different can seem like a huge challenge. An extra layer of instability in an already tumultuous time.

The impact of the global pandemic has highlighted how organizations need to fundamentally alter their foundations to incorporate digital solutions in order to remain competitive and better meet the demands of the day.

According to PWC’s Global CEO Survey, 81% of respondents agree that technological progress will fundamentally change their organizations. The time to adapt to the digital world is now.

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Cloud-based solutions have formed the backbone of many organizations' pandemic responses, enabling businesses to rapidly move their employees online and embrace remote working. And this is not just the case for businesses in the service sector, many manufacturers and engineering firms have had to quickly adapt to working in a virtual world.

Companies increasingly realize that moving part or all of their business to the cloud is an inevitability. No longer a hypothetical nice-to-have, the scale, agility and flexibility with which businesses have to operate in 2021 and beyond mean that a transition to the cloud is a matter of time.



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While the benefits of cloud-based solutions have been brought into sharp relief in the current climate, many organizations still experience anxieties around digital transformation. Businesses doing their rightful due diligence are wary of a host of issues that the cloud might pose for them.

The first concern is a natural and common worry – security. When businesses hear “public cloud”, they worry that their data will be shared in the public domain, accessible to all – at will. While this is an understandable misconception, it is a misconception nonetheless.

That apprehension around security can also manifest as a fear of losing control. Businesses worry that they are ceding control of their data, and will be unable to access it on demand at a later date. This is not the case, and there needs to be a wider acknowledgement of the layers of data safety and security, such as through automatic back-up transfers, that cloud systems use so as to allay these concerns.

Another area of trepidation for businesses when assessing the merits of moving their data to the cloud is the idea of ‘data islands’, that is data that can’t be accessed as it’s being stored on other organisation’s servers. This is of particular concern to businesses who may have restrictions on where their company’s data can be stored, such as those with government or military customers. Understanding the importance of flexibility around this area is crucial.



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Contemporaneously to these concerns over control are the questions around how much your core business will be disrupted by the process of migrating your legacy PLM system to a cloud-based model. What impact could it have on ongoing business operations and continuity? Can the expense of such a technology investment be justified at the current time?

But while the thought of moving partially or fully to the cloud can be daunting, it needn't be. On-premise solutions can work in tandem with cloud-based ones, meaning companies can take the transition step-by-step at whatever pace they're comfortable with. This incremental, **hybrid approach** stops business from getting overwhelmed by a new cloud-based ecosystem and means they can maintain their existing systems and processes while benefitting from cutting-edge cloud technology.



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A STEP-BY-STEP SOLUTION

By slowly integrating smart cloud solutions, companies are able to experience the benefits they offer at their own pace. Dassault Systèmes understands that for large, established enterprises, organizational and operational transitions must be taken with great measure and care. Therefore, a steppingstone approach gives a business the ability to migrate certain product development functions to the cloud-based **3DEXPERIENCE**® platform while maintaining their day-to-day on-premise operations. To try before they fully commit.

This step-by-step introduction can often start with a proof of concept. An organization can run use cases on the **3DEXPERIENCE** platform separate to their core business, giving them the confidence to see what a cloud solution can offer.

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For example, a major automotive company intended to use the advanced CAD solution CATIA V5 for their electrical wire harness design. But they also wanted to see how using CATIA on the cloud-based **3DEXPERIENCE** platform could help improve their processes without needing to fully sign on. When the pandemic struck and using the cloud to work remotely became a necessity, the company was able to continue with their design work and this provided the proof of concept to help them commit to adding the cloud program to their on-premise installation.

Another entry point is for companies who have been using legacy software to get comfortable with the latest versions on the cloud. By doing so they have the separation from their existing software architecture to spend the necessary time to understand what the new version can do and work out how they might migrate their systems to it.

An alternative option is to give companies access to cloud solutions to help specific teams work more closely together regardless of their location. For example, one company wanted their marketing team to be able to communicate, collaborate and share deliverables and collateral wherever they were based. Their 14-strong team across the United States used the **3DEXPERIENCE** platform to share renderings, or access the data from on-premise installation and add them to the marketing materials they were producing. The platform was able to give them a degree of interoperability that allowed the marketing team to access vital material, but in a way that prevented them from getting too involved with the production lines.

A JOURNEY AS IMPORTANT AS THE DESTINATION

Embracing the journey can help an organization understand in what ways a cloud-based solution can directly aid their business in the short term and help them take the first step to digital business transformation. It is not an either/or conversation.

On-premise and cloud solutions can co-exist – they are interoperable – which minimizes disruption to core business activities, ensuring a smooth transition, not an abrupt switch.

Moving to the cloud can deliver a host of benefits from improved business continuity through remote working and shared data to accessing the latest design and simulation software and working more collaboratively with your customers.

In a turbulent and shifting market, moving to the cloud may seem daunting. However, all journeys begin with the first step. As Descartes once said: “Divide each difficulty into as many parts as is feasible and necessary to resolve it.”



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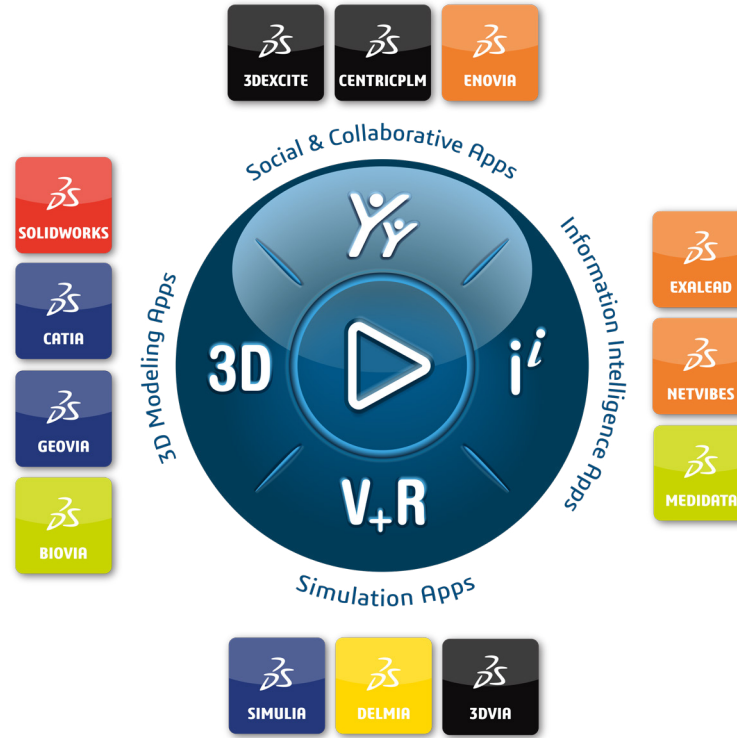


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Dassault Systèmes, the **3DEXPERIENCE** Company, is a catalyst for human progress. We provide business and people with collaborative virtual environments to imagine sustainable innovations. By creating 'virtual experience twins' of the real world with our **3DEXPERIENCE** platform and applications, our customers push the boundaries of innovation, learning and production.

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