



Cloud for Government: A Transformative Digital Tool to Better Serve Communities



Introduction

From national to provincial agencies, government organizations crave access to the same cloud-based tools enabling digital transformation across the private sector. These tools hold the promise of delivering IT services with greater speed, flexibility, agility, and economy than traditional data center technologies. In addition, cloud services can help governments improve public services while reducing costs—satisfying the imperative to make the best use of taxpayers' money.

OnX Canada has decades of industry experience and skills to help government agencies transform their infrastructure and applications into a cloud environment while also addressing the cloud-driven challenges specific to the public sector.

This eBook explores how cloud-based tools address these challenges in five essential ways:

- **Security and compliance.** An OnX Canada deployed cloud solution allows you to adopt a security posture that is more dynamic, automated and service-oriented.
- **Budget restrictions.** Moving organizational processes to the cloud allows agencies to shift from a capital expense to an operational expense, providing predictable payments and reducing initial investment costs.
- **Advancement.** Cloud solutions give government agencies access to cutting-edge technologies, from machine learning to artificial intelligence.
- **Productivity.** Regulating, integrating, simplifying, and automating IT operations improves efficiency.
- **Backup and recovery.** The use of domestic data centers optimizes critical real-time services and reduces the risk of downtime.

Let's review these drivers more closely.



Security and compliance

OnX infrastructure security solutions keep essential government data safe and within Canada's borders. While on-premises data centers are still the most sheltered locations for classified and sensitive data, the cloud offers secure storage for your information and ensures full encryption 24x7x365.

Our infrastructure security solutions offer the following capabilities:

- Assess security risks and challenges by developing an end-to-end enterprise security strategy that prioritizes risk exposure and roadmaps them to effective solutions. As well, we optimize the data environment around effective security tools and develop the means to rapidly integrate new technologies.
- Protect networks, data, users, applications, and endpoints through micro-segmentation application access and unification of user ID management and single sign-on (SSO and SIM) techniques. Our toolkit also includes full data encryption, replication, and recovery, as well as full management of mobile apps and devices.
- Detect security threats, exposures, and attacks using the latest in malware, DDoS, and access controls, in addition to Data Loss Prevention (DLP) and full reporting of security information events.
- Respond to attacks and remediate deficiencies through loss mitigation and corrective action techniques. We also provide holistic SIEM analytics response and SOC management.

Major cloud providers typically have stronger security than the clients who hire them. As a third-party managed cloud solutions provider, we understand the vital importance of protection for your government organization. Our reputation depends on the effectiveness of our security, and system breaches are not acceptable.

Economic prudence

Cloud computing significantly diminishes hardware costs while allowing you to shift from capital expenditures to a scalable, operational cost-model where you pay only for the resources you consume.

As equipment ages, it becomes increasingly expensive to maintain as it ages. This poses a problem for a traditional data center infrastructure model in which hardware tends to remain in place long past its expiration date. With each passing year, then, agencies run an increased risk of total system failure, and, consequently, the loss of IT-based public services. But even when organizations maintain a reasonable hardware refresh program, the data center itself requires substantial land, climate control costs, and IT staff to maintain, repair, and replace hardware and software. These expenses can quickly topple a government's budget and cause increased scrutiny from taxpayers.

Cloud computing offers predictable, usage-based monthly fees instead of the high premiums involved in building a data center.



Innovation

When your organization chooses to migrate to the cloud, the responsibility of configuring, updating, and supporting data center technologies is placed solely on the cloud provider. This is why it is imperative for cloud vendors to run at optimum efficiency by standardizing, automating, and investing in the latest, most innovative equipment and solutions.

In partnering with OnX, your agency can leverage our deep understanding of high availability for mission critical data to further improve and update the services it provides. Our analytics software lets agencies monitor all the data traveling to and from the cloud host, while sophisticated measurement of application usage, traffic patterns, bandwidth demand, and unstructured data can uncover waste and inefficiencies.

Simplified IT operations

Government branches typically have siloed communication systems that make it difficult to collaborate across departments. Operating in a public cloud can get multiple agencies and organizations to work with the same technology, streamlining IT processes and erasing years of confusing and complex structures.

Migrating to the cloud makes it easier to unify technology applications, as government organizations are often heavy users of backend systems. Operating these apps in the cloud ensures constant maintenance and upgrades, allowing your IT staff to focus on high priority initiatives.

OnX cloud software leverages an enterprise-class server and networking monitoring solution with 24x7 reporting and escalation capabilities. It provides a single point of interface for the entire network and a single dashboard for the end-to-end IT environment.

Our solution monitors applications, databases, interfaces, servers, storage devices, as well as LAN/WAN infrastructure and other resources. And because monitoring is an ongoing process, we maintain a steady dialogue with clients to ascertain their unique needs and provide access to our granular alerting and remediation options, customized reports and other solutions.



Backup and disaster recovery

The cloud's infinite storage capability makes the perfect solution for backup and disaster recovery. Partnering with OnX enables you to build a reliable backup solution without having to invest in additional hardware that drives up operational costs.

With full replication to a secondary disaster recovery facility, government agencies can reduce downtime, ensure delivery of emergency assistance, and keep vital first-responder services functioning in a crisis. Robust backup-and-recovery operations also protect against cyber-attacks that take down IT systems or theft of data such as Ransomware.

Domestic data centers help agencies replicate their data to distant sites to avoid outages caused by regional disasters, but not so far as to disrupt the server efficiency servers. With the power and agility gained from integration with many different operating systems, you decide which data to send to the cloud and which to keep on-premises.

OnX is a certified subject matter expert in off-site data backup and disaster recovery solutions. We take accountability for all of our clients' data protection requirements, then create the runbook documentation, set up all configurations, and monitor and manage the entire solution 24x7.

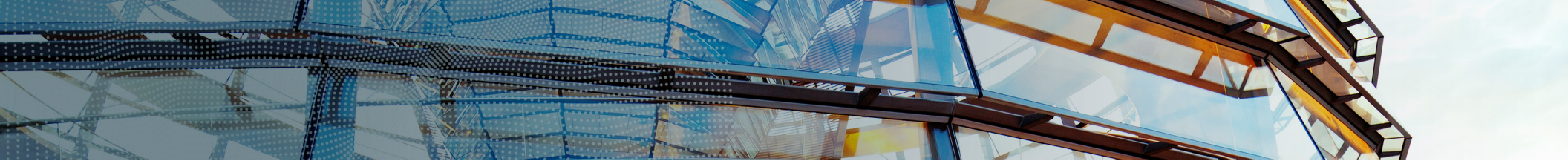
We provide an intelligent, tiered recovery program designed to keep costs under control without compromising recovery times, with full documentation of all step-by-step procedures in minute detail. Our managed testing program is non-disruptive to either the IT team or production environments and is focused on getting applications on-line quickly and available for remote access. We also provide a Letter of Test Performance that can be used for regulatory, insurance, or partner verification.

Partnering with OnX

Migrating IT resources to the cloud is an involved process that should not be attempted without a thorough understanding of in-house systems and close attention to detail. Many cloud-based tools streamline migration processes, but most agencies require the assistance of a third-party integrator with broad experience delivering successful cloud transformation tailored to the unique needs of government organizations.

OnX has spent more than three decades working with government agencies in Canada while thoroughly learning each new iteration of cloud-based technology. Our IT team understands the intricacies of the many cloud tools and the rigidity of government compliance laws.

We understand that most agencies will require a hybrid cloud that deploys data and IT workloads where they make the most sense while keeping some operations on-premises. Our broad experience and wealth of IT professionals will work diligently to ensure your new system meets the requirements of your organization while serving the greater needs of your community.



About OnX

OnX is a wholly owned subsidiary of CBTS that serves Canadian businesses, health care organizations, and government agencies across Canada. From Unified Communications to Cloud Services and beyond, OnX combines deep technical expertise with a full suite of flexible technology solutions that drive business outcomes, improve operational efficiencies, mitigate risks, and reduce costs for its clients. For more information, please visit www.onX.com.



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