

Why Discovery Is Critical to Multi-Cloud Success



Best Practices for Maximizing Your Investment in a Multi-Cloud Environment

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Executive Summary

Although cloud computing represents perhaps the biggest change to IT in recent history, it's not as simple as it sounds. Despite a seemingly constant call to “move to the cloud,” businesses must navigate a wide variety of service offerings and deployment models to determine what's best for their requirements.

Organizations adopting cloud can use multi-cloud environments—multiple public cloud services, often along with on-premises physical, virtual, and private cloud infrastructure—in different ways. This adds elasticity and scalability to your infrastructure, but also makes it more difficult to gain a clear, holistic view across your IT ecosystem.

This white paper explains how multi-cloud discovery addresses this challenge by providing insight into your assets and their relationships across every environment. By providing unprecedented visibility into this complex landscape, multi-cloud discovery enables you to optimize costs, reduce risk, and maximize your investment in a multi-cloud environment.



THE CLOUD ADOPTION CURVE

The overwhelming majority of organizations are shifting to a cloud strategy to support both their core operations and digital transformation. The question now is not if to move to the cloud, but what, when, and how.

This shift is reflected in recent research on cloud maturity. In a survey of over 1,000 IT professionals conducted by BMC in September 2017, 9 out of 10 cloud users see cloud solutions as important in delivering agility, scale, and operating flexibility.

According to Gartner, by 2021, more than half of global enterprises already using cloud today will adopt an all-in cloud strategy.¹

HOW DISCOVERY ADDRESSES CHALLENGES IN YOUR MULTI-CLOUD STRATEGY

This new, cloud-centric world requires agile and innovative ways to support your cloud deployment. Whether you're running a hybrid cloud, multi-cloud, or both, a diverse environment depends on sophisticated discovery to optimize its performance and maximize its potential.

The Importance of Multi-Cloud Discovery

While discovery may not be the first IT initiative that comes to mind during your transition to a hybrid or multi-cloud environment, it plays a critical role in managing all the moving pieces of your growing infrastructure. In fact, understanding the assets one owns and their dependencies has never been more relevant in a landscape that includes multiple vendors, different splits in responsibility, accelerated innovation delivery, and greater emphasis on automation.

A well-executed discovery initiative enables you to:

- Provide accurate asset information to assist decision making (e.g., change approval or release planning) and help resolve incidents and problems faster
- Define and maintain the components of business services, their role and ownership, how they relate to one another, and how they evolve over time
- Provide means and processes to guarantee data quality

These capabilities are ideal in any IT environment, but become crucial with the move to cloud. As more and more production components get deployed in various cloud services, establishing streamlined discovery built on the objectives listed above helps you optimize costs and reduce the risks related to performance, availability, security, and compliance.

Streamlined configuration management helps you optimize costs and reduce the risks related to performance, availability, security, and compliance...To meet the changing requirements of virtual, mobile, and cloud platforms, service dependency mapping tools will require expanded functionality for breadth and depth of discovery, such as storage devices, mainframes, and hybrid cloud resources.² (Gartner)

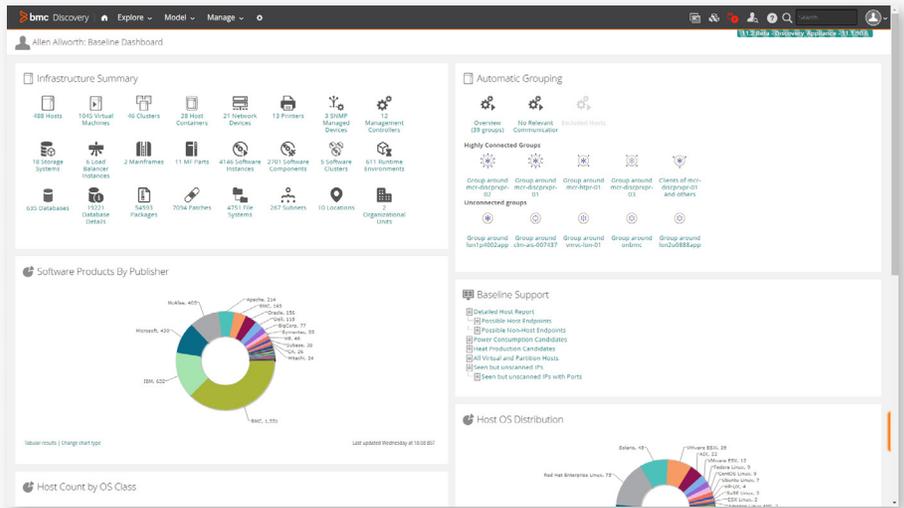
5 Key Requirements for Multi-Cloud Discovery

For discovery to positively impact your multi-cloud deployment, it must be able to execute these five things with unparalleled precision:

1. Know what's out there

- Understand what compute resources and software you have deployed in multi-cloud environments
- Identify redundancies and suboptimal architecture deployments in cloud environments
- Enable asset management and cost transparency processes by providing the inventory and relationships to cloud services

Figure 2: Baseline dashboard



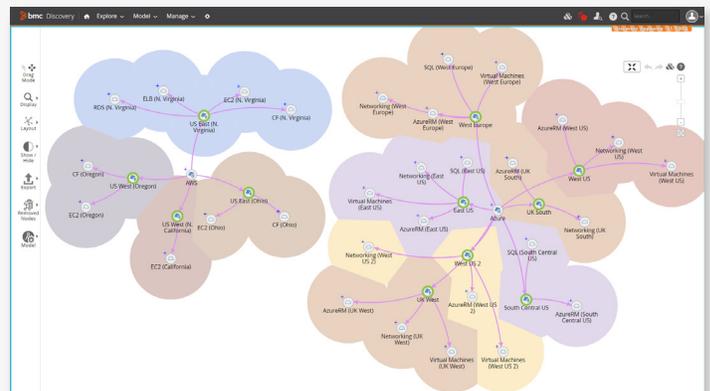
Key Features for Multi-Cloud Discovery

- Single pane of glass for internal data center, public cloud, and private cloud**
 - Cloud and internal data center agnostic model
 - Can model hybrid applications that span multiple clouds and data centers
 - Ability to overlay cloud context against traditional assets
- Updates at the speed of the cloud**
 - Over 4,000 asset types currently discoverable—the highest number in the industry
 - Monthly knowledge updates to add new cloud vendors and cloud resources
 - Framework to allow you to extend patterns as cloud vendors release new services
 - Event-driven updates react to changes as they occur
 - Open platform for enabling systems and processes
 - Secure integration to CyberArk
- Start-anywhere application modeling**
 - Map from any starting point (top-down, bottom-up, middle-out)
 - Have awareness of cluster technologies and how they shape applications
 - Represent shared software infrastructure in the most complex models

BMC Atrium CMDB works with BMC Discovery as a central reference point for IT infrastructure and services, including cloud services and their relationships. As a best-in-class configuration management database, it creates a complete, accurate, and up-to-date view of the people, technologies, and services that make up your business and IT environments, including your clouds.

Organizations that use BMC Discovery report up to a 470% ROI over five years with an average eight-month payback period.³

Figure 3: Discovery for AWS and Azure



CONCLUSION

For most organizations, a multi-cloud environment already is or will soon be the reality. Cloud is not a one-size-fits-all approach, and as its offerings and capabilities expand, so will the ways in which businesses use it to their advantage.

BMC Discovery mitigates the complexity of a multi-cloud environment with a clear view into your assets and its relationships, no matter where its hosted. From public to private to hybrid and everything in between, BMC Discovery delivers the visibility and control you need to make the most of your multi-cloud environment.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about BMC Discovery, visit bmc.com/it-solutions/discovery-dependency-mapping

- 1 Gartner, Cloud Computing Enters Its Second Decade, <http://www.gartner.com/smarterwithgartner/cloud-computing-enters-its-second-decade/>, January 2017.
- 2 Gartner Hype Cycle for ITSM 2017, <https://www.gartner.com/doc/3765066/hype-cycle-itsm->, July 2017.
- 3 IDC, The Business Value of BMC Discovery Software, <http://media.cms.bmc.com/documents/BMC-Discovery-Updated-May-2017.pdf>, July 2016.

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BMC digital IT transforms 82 percent of the Fortune 500.



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