ZLTECH

ZL Cloud & Hybrid Solutions

Flexible Deployments for the AI Era

Organizations have embraced cloud adoption for compelling reasons: unlimited scalability, reduced IT overhead, high data availability, and elastic infrastructure that grows with business needs. The philosophy behind the shift was simple: offload infrastructure management and focus on core business functions.

The Hidden Costs of Unstructured Data Migration

Migrating massive volumes of unstructured, often sensitive data—such as emails, documents, file shares, and chat logs—to the cloud introduces unforeseen challenges. Cloud storage expenses often entail complex, multi-line items with data egress fees, API charges, and erratic scaling. Moving sensitive data across jurisdictions raises compliance concerns under privacy, DORA, and data sovereignty regulations, while data breaches in cloud environments can be costly and damage brand trust. Additionally, network latency and data transfer limitations impact critical applications such as AI/ML workflows.

Rather than executing a blanket lift-and-shift migration, a better strategy is to evaluate which data should be moved to the cloud based on sensitivity, regulatory requirements, access patterns, and business value.

Choosing the Right Deployment Model

Selecting the right data to move to the cloud is only one aspect of cloud strategy. Choosing the right deployment model for specific workload needs is equally critical. There are three deployment models to choose from:

Cloud-only deployments
ideal for organizations with minimal legacy data, less stringent regulatory requirements, and a need for enhanced collaboration. This model outsources infrastructure maintenance and offers maximum scalability for variable workloads.

On-premises deployments
provide complete control over sensitive data, optimal performance for latency-sensitive applications, and predictable costs for steady-state workloads.

Hybrid deployments
offer the best of both worlds, allowing organizations to keep sensitive data on-premises while leveraging cloud elasticity for appropriate workloads such as AI deployment, utilizing existing infrastructure to reduce sunk costs.

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Cloud Repatriation:
A Strategic Shift

The challenges of cloud deployment—escalating costs, regulatory complexity, and performance constraints—hit hardest on steady-state workloads that don't benefit from cloud elasticity. Hybrid architectures are emerging as the sweet spot, pairing cloud flexibility with on-premises predictability and control.

ZL Tech: Unified Governance Across Any Deployment

Cloud, On-Premises, or Hybrid: Your Choice

As many vendors have shifted to cloud-only deployments, ZL Tech is becoming unique in continuing to support customers across all deployment models, including on-premises. As a **SOC 2 Type II certified vendor** partnered with Microsoft Azure, ZL Tech delivers:

Full Cloud Deployment

- ✓ Fully managed service: ZL handles updates, maintenance, monitoring
- ✓ WORM storage options for immutable records & data encryption both in transit and at rest
- ✓ 3,500+ Azure global security experts protecting your data & 90+ compliance certifications

Hybrid Cloud Excellence

In the age of AI, ZL hybrid deployments enable organizations to:

- ✓ **Keep sensitive data on-premises** while leveraging cloud for elasticity
- ✓ **Curate and move only what's necessary:** avoid full-scale lift-and-shift migrations
- ✓ **Run AI workloads where it makes sense**: on-prem for performance, cloud for scale

The Critical First Step:
Data Cleanup

Whether migrating to the cloud or optimizing a hybrid environment, moving data can be costly, both in terms of migration expenses and storage fees. For the data that will move to the cloud, organizations may want to eliminate redundant, obsolete, and trivial (ROT) data before migration. Addressing ROT first reduces migration costs, lowers ongoing storage expenses, minimizes compliance exposure, and decreases risk from storing sensitive data in the cloud.

Migrate the Essence, Delete the Rest

ZL In-Place Data Management revolutionizes cloud strategy by extracting and indexing the "essence" of every document, including metadata and content, without copying or moving original files:

Reduce storage burden by 90%
Migrate only essential intelligence into the cloud while defensibly deleting source documents.

Unified governance
Satisfy privacy, records, compliance, and eDiscovery requirements from one unified platform.

Cut cloud costs
Critical in cloud environments where storage costs are typically higher.

Power AI & analytics
Feed curated, governed data to AI systems without moving massive data volumes.

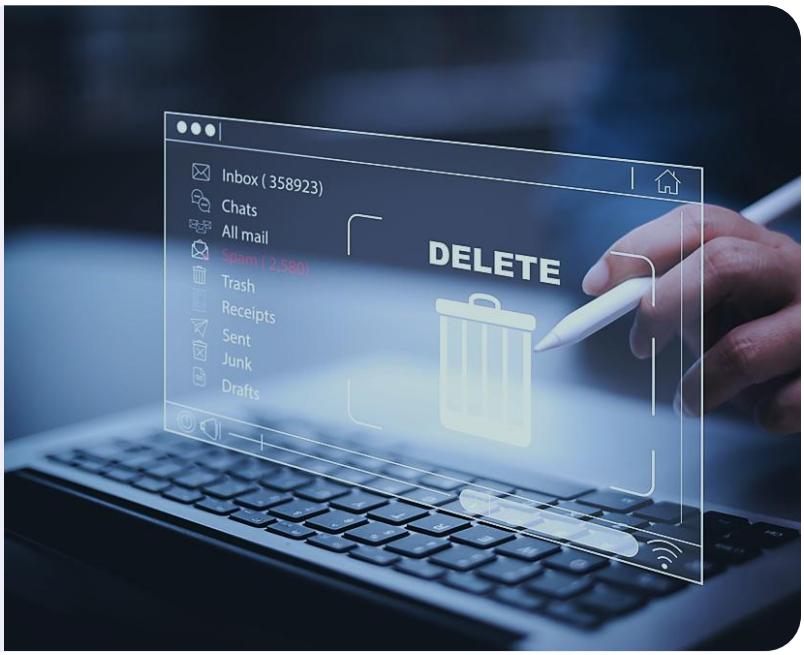
ZL's Impact:
Global Bank Data Cleanup

A global bank preparing for cloud migration needed to reduce its massive data footprint. In 2023, the bank adopted ZL In-Place Data Management, scaling cleanup from 1 million documents per year to **21 million files in just two months.**

10B+
Documents Managed

0
Copies Created

1.6+ PBs ROT Defensibly Deleted



The ZL Advantage

- ✓ **No gaps in service** during cloud adoption or repatriation
- ✓ **Sync deployments** or keep them separated—manage on-premises and cloud data from one or two ZL systems
- ✓ **Utilize existing on-premises infrastructure**, reducing sunk costs
- ✓ **Manage In-Place** to govern and wrangle data to feed AI systems without copying or moving massive volumes
- ✓ **Complete audit trails** of all actions for legal and regulatory defensibility

Future-Proof Your Data Strategy

Whether migrating to cloud, repatriating to on-premises, or adopting a hybrid environment, ZL Tech has the unified platform to:

- ✓ **Reduce storage costs by up to 90%** through in-place intelligence extraction
- ✓ **Mitigate legal and regulatory risks** with comprehensive unified governance
- ✓ **Enable AI transformation** by feeding curated, governed data where you need it
- ✓ **Maintain flexibility** as your infrastructure strategy evolves

The ZL Platform manages data wherever it resides—across cloud and on-premises systems—from a single, unified interface.