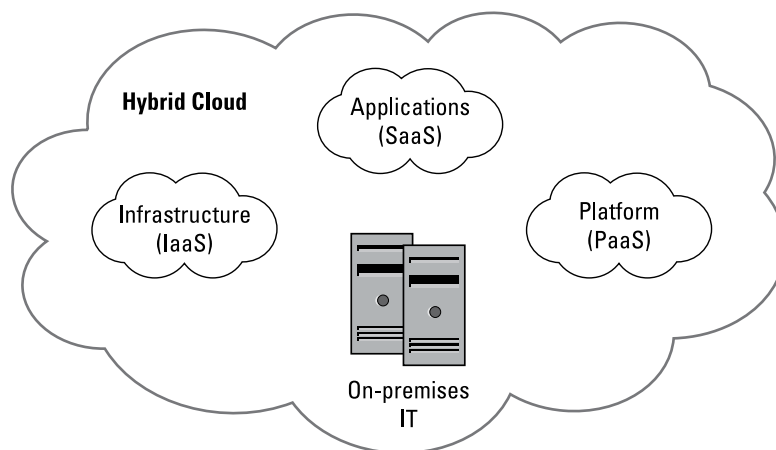


FIGURE 26-1: Hybrid cloud seeks to unify on-premises IT with Cloud services.



This is more challenging than it seems like it should be. But recent trends have brought us much closer to the reality of being able to seamlessly move between on-premises IT and cloud-based IT.

What Are the Benefits of Hybrid Cloud?

Moving the traditional IT engine and the cloud engine closer together provides numerous benefits for your IT organization. I cover a few of the most important ones in the following sections.

Elasticity

As I get older, I find it very helpful to buy pants with elastic waistbands. *Elasticity* is a valuable characteristic in IT systems as well. Elasticity simply means that your IT infrastructure can stretch to accommodate growth and that it can shrink down when your IT loses weight. For example, if you roll out a new line of business or open a new branch office, your IT should be able to expand to accommodate the new work. But if you sell off that line of business or close an office, you should be able to contract.

Cloud services are elastic by nature. For example, a cloud-based email service typically charges a certain amount per user per month. If you add 50 users, you pay more. If you lose 50 users, you pay less.