Backend Configuration

Each Terraform configuration can specify a backend, which defines where **STATE** snapshots are stored.

You do not need to configure a backend when using Terraform Cloud because Terraform Cloud automatically manages state in the workspaces associated with your configuration.

If your configuration includes **A CLOUD BLOCK**, it cannot include a backend block.

Meaning, if you have this

Cloud block

```terraform
terraform.tf > terraform
1    terraform {
2      cloud {}
3
4      required_providers {
5        aws = {
6          source  = "hashicorp/aws"
7          version = "~> 4.4.0"
8        }
9      }
10
```

You cannot have this

Backend

Using a Backend Block

Backends are configured with a nested `backend` block

```terraform
terraform {
  backend "remote" {
    organization = "example_corp"

    workspaces {
      name = "my-app-prod"
    }
  }
}
```

Most non-trivial Terraform **configurations store state remotely so that multiple people can work with the same infrastructure. A process called enhancing the collaboration among the team members.**

There are some important limitations on backend configuration:

- A configuration can only provide one backend block.

- A backend block cannot refer to named values (like input variables, locals, or data source attributes).