



Future-proofing Minnesota's technology with CloudRAMP

State of Minnesota: Minnesota IT Services

Category: Enterprise Technology Management

Initiated: January 2024

Completed: May 2026

Executive summary

Minnesota IT Services (MNIT) led a transformational enterprise modernization effort to strengthen the technology foundation supporting Minnesota state government. Through the multiyear Cloud Readiness and Modernization Project (CloudRAMP), MNIT replaced aging infrastructure, strengthened cybersecurity, standardized enterprise technology services, and advanced the state's cloud strategy to improve scalability, operational resilience, and cost efficiency across agencies.

More than a technology upgrade, the project established a modern enterprise service delivery model that unified agencies around shared infrastructure, governance, and security standards. The initiative improved cross-agency collaboration, accelerated modernization efforts, reduced operational complexity, and created a more secure and flexible technology environment capable of supporting the next generation of digital government services for Minnesotans.

The effort addressed growing challenges caused by aging on-premises infrastructure that increased operational risk, raised maintenance costs, and limited the state's ability to modernize efficiently. Agencies operated across inconsistent technology environments with different tools, processes, and capabilities, making it difficult to update technology efficiently and maintain reliable performance statewide. Legacy infrastructure consumed significant staff time for maintenance, patching, monitoring, and incident response, limiting the state's ability to focus on transformation and service innovation.

Planning for the Cloud Readiness and Modernization Project (CloudRAMP) began in 2020, with implementation launching in 2021.

The effort accelerated in 2023 when the Minnesota Legislature invested \$33.595 million to support enterprise cloud migration and set a goal of migrating at least 70% of state servers to the cloud within four years. Minnesota achieved that goal in April 2026 and is on track to reach 80% by June 30, 2026.

Rather than treating cloud migration as a standalone infrastructure project, Minnesota positioned cloud modernization as a foundation for enterprise transformation and long-term digital readiness. MNIT aligned technology modernization with future business needs to enable more agile operations, improve resiliency, strengthen security monitoring, and create a scalable enterprise platform capable of supporting future modernization, digital services, and statewide innovation initiatives.

Why it matters: Proactive modernization positions Minnesota for long-term stability, agility, and improved public service delivery.

Benefits of proactive modernization

Meets business needs with speed and scale

Cloud migration drives modernization and creates operational efficiencies.

Strengthens security

Transitioning to cloud-based solutions provides near real-time monitoring and improves resiliency.

Long-term cost savings

Reduces infrastructure costs by minimizing large capital investments in on-premises hardware.

Minnesota's cloud vision

When evaluating options to renew data center leases and licenses for on-premises virtual hosting environments, MNIT leadership realized that costs would continue to rise while agency budgets would likely constrict. MNIT proactively addressed these issues by designing a unified cloud strategy, a multiyear project to migrate agency data and applications to the cloud.

MNIT designed an intentional cloud strategy to modernize infrastructure, strengthen security, and help application teams deliver services faster. The strategy also consolidated previously inconsistent cloud efforts across agencies, enabling a shared vision and stronger financial stewardship through enterprise-level efficiencies.



A more unified future

By aligning agencies under a single enterprise cloud strategy, MNIT reduced fragmentation across technology environments and created a more consistent foundation for digital government services. The approach improved scalability, strengthened operational resilience, and positioned Minnesota to respond more quickly to changing business and technology needs.

A unified cloud transformation strategy also provided Minnesota's technology landscape with greater long-term stability by:

- Improving digital service reliability and customer experience for Minnesotans.
- Strengthening cybersecurity protections to better protect systems and sensitive data.
- Enabling the state to scale infrastructure capacity more efficiently without major investments in physical data centers.
- Improving transparency and management of IT costs.
- Reducing duplication and standardizing technology operations across agencies to streamline service development and support enterprise collaboration.

Guiding principles



Security
mindset



Frictionless
employee experience



Transparency
for all involved



Fiscally
responsible



Follow industry
best practices

Defining a set of guiding principles helped overcome challenges embedded throughout traditionally risk-averse agencies. This ensured cultural readiness and kept more than 2,800 MNIT staff informed, trained, and aligned through sustained communication and professional development.

Implementation

Building a foundation for success

MNIT's cloud transformation unfolded through a structured, multiyear roadmap from 2021 to 2026. With an intentionally slow start, the project's first three years defined strategic priorities, established enterprise standards, built staff capacity and expertise, and centralized documentation. This thoughtful approach set the stage for a scalable migration process and sustainable, long-term cloud operations.

Moving at scale

In 2023, with the groundwork for long-term success in place, CloudRAMP received \$33.595 million in funding from the Minnesota Legislature. This funding allowed the project to accelerate, with an established goal of migrating 70% of workloads to the cloud within four years.

By 2025, migration efforts scaled rapidly, with the number of migrated servers increasing by 132%. During this period, 37 MNIT agency teams actively participated in migrations, while additional teams prepared for future phases. To support the growing effort, MNIT's implementation partner provided dedicated migration teams that offered specialized guidance and technical resources.

Agency collaboration

Preparing agency-based IT leaders for the cloud migration process was key to the project's success. Early on, MNIT hosted a series of workshops to prepare agencies for all aspects of the migration process, including budgeting, training, and organizational change management.

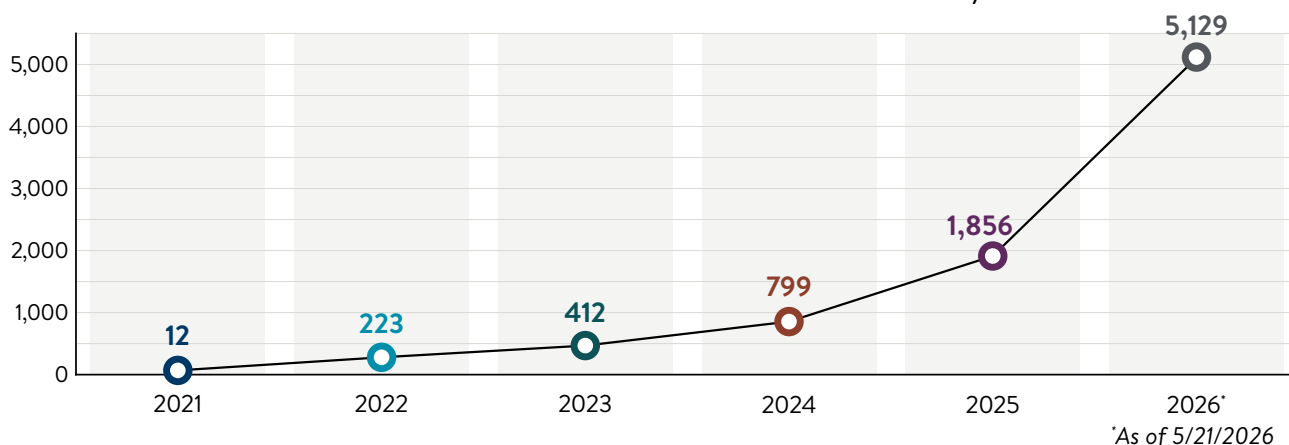
Agencies also completed a thorough cloud readiness assessment, which documented their pre-migration environments of applications, servers, databases, and infrastructure. With MNIT support, agencies used their assessment data to design a migration plan with a clear outline for their cloud-based futures.

Workload migrations phases

- Phase 1** Analyze current environment and build application dependency maps.
- Phase 2** Plan workloads. Prepare environment. Complete change management process for a go/no-go decision.
- Phase 3** Migrate workloads. Post-migration testing.

Number of servers in the cloud

The number of servers in the cloud has doubled each year.





Early in the cloud transformation program, we recognized that without better dashboards and reports, we couldn't manage cloud costs effectively. At the time, we waited weeks — sometimes over a month — for usage data, losing valuable time to correct misconfigurations or shut down unused services, leading to unnecessary costs.

Today, we have near real-time visibility into costs, projections, and daily spend trends, along with alerts to prevent overspending. Combined with improved tagging, these tools help MNIT teams make data-driven decisions and optimize cloud use. We've also gained enterprise-wide visibility into services used across teams, increasing collaboration and reducing duplication of effort.

— **Christian Deloia**, *Cloud Business Delivery Director*



FinOps alignment

Alongside workload migration, MNIT developed a financial management toolset that provided near real-time visibility into cloud costs. Because cloud services operate on a consumption-based model, costs can rise or fall based on actual usage, making cloud financial management fundamentally different from traditional IT budgeting. Without proper oversight and controls, this model could introduce new financial risks. MNIT's FinOps approach helped ensure the state's cloud transformation remained aligned with budget expectations, appropriation limits, and legislative intent.

Why cloud adoption requires FinOps



Providing cost viability across agencies and platforms.



Ensuring financial accountability between technology and business teams.



Enabling optimization of cloud spending before costs escalate.



Upholding data-driven budgeting, forecasting, and rate setting.

Impact

Minnesota's cloud modernization initiative transformed how the state delivers, secures, and scales digital government services — surpassing adoption goals ahead of schedule while reducing infrastructure costs and improving operational resiliency. The initiative required coordination across multiple agencies, large-scale infrastructure migration efforts, enterprise governance alignment, cybersecurity modernization, and long-term operational planning.

Accelerated cloud adoption

Throughout the life of the project, cloud migrations increased exponentially year over year. This rapid scaling modernized MNIT's technology infrastructure and improved service resiliency statewide. The project is on track to reach 80% cloud adoption by June 30, 2026, surpassing the 70% strategic target one year earlier than expected.

Modernizing cloud infrastructure reduced reliance on aging systems, improved deployment speed, strengthened service resiliency, and allowed agencies to scale digital services more efficiently. By migrating major platforms and retiring outdated infrastructure, Minnesota improved the reliability and performance of the digital services Minnesotans depend on every day.

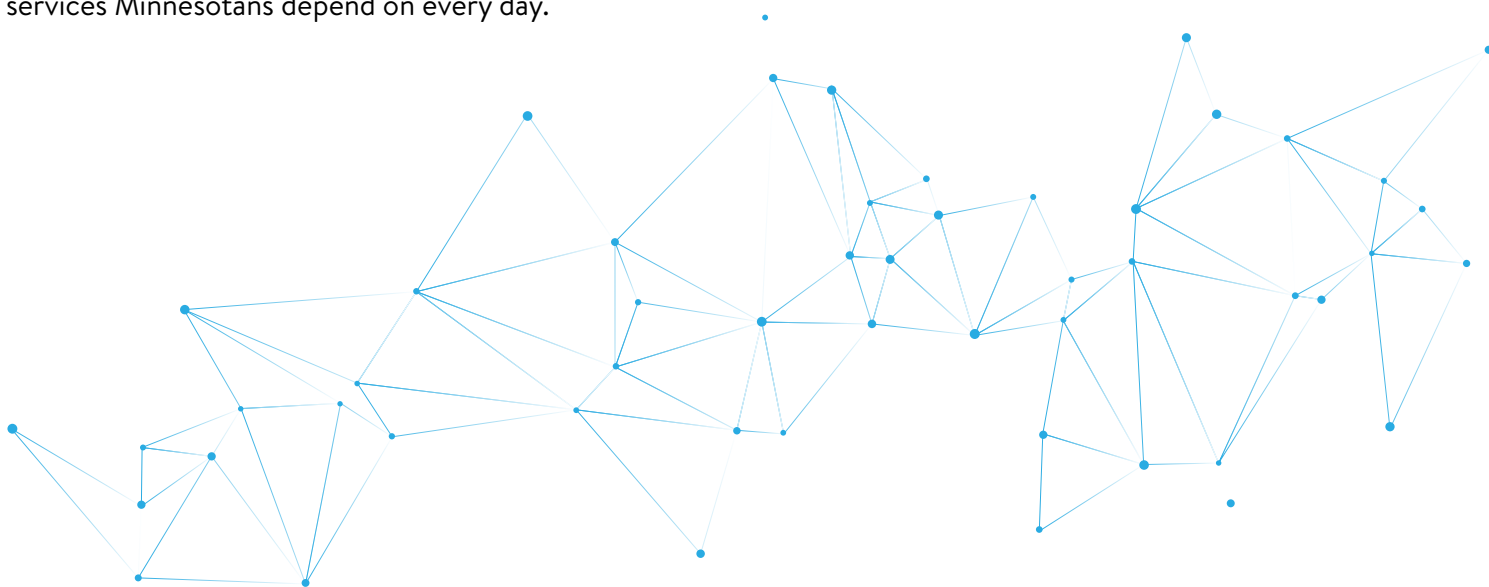
Cost savings and operational efficiency

MNIT incorporated FinOps practices to improve enterprise visibility into cloud spending, strengthen financial accountability, and optimize infrastructure usage across agencies. Near real-time monitoring and usage analytics helped agencies reduce unnecessary resource consumption and improve budgeting decisions.

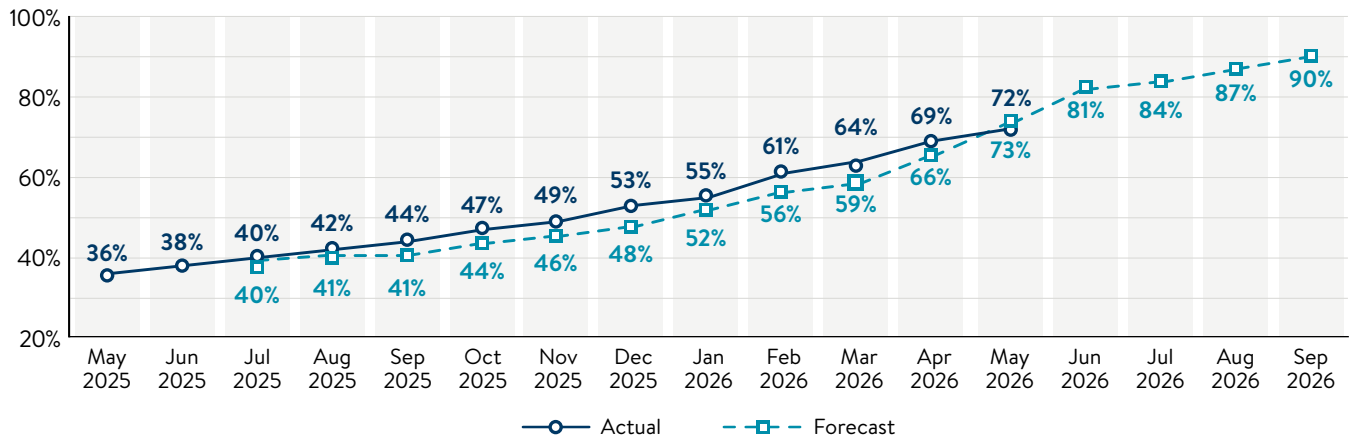


*Minnesota agencies currently see an average of **40% cost savings** by moving from on-premises to the cloud.*

A unified cloud strategy for application portfolio management also created opportunities for operational efficiencies by consolidating redundant systems, increasing compliance across agencies, and improving decision-making through a better understanding of IT data.



Percent of servers in the cloud



Readiness for the future

By aligning under a single enterprise strategy, MNIT built a strong foundation for cloud modernization and future innovation. The transformation positions Minnesota for long-term stability, greater operational agility, and improved public service delivery. Minnesota's cloud modernization initiative also established a scalable enterprise technology foundation that will support digital government services, cybersecurity modernization, and operational resiliency for years to come.

Benefits of moving workloads to the cloud under a single enterprise strategy:



Improved statewide monitoring, visibility, and real-time infrastructure management.



Stronger cybersecurity protections and enterprise resiliency capabilities.



Faster scalability without major investments in physical infrastructure.



Reduced duplication and greater operational efficiency across agencies.



Improved disaster recovery and business continuity capabilities.



Better financial transparency and long-term infrastructure sustainability.