

# Escaping the Commodity Trap

From Cloud Provider to Indispensable Partner

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# Fill in the CloudStack User Survey

*Help us understand the CloudStack Ecosystem*



# A Little About Me

- First CloudStack deployments in ~2010/2011
- Previous VP of Apache CloudStack
- CTO @ United Data Technologies (UDT)
  - Technology Solutions Provider and Service Provider
  - 500 employees, Privately Owned
  - Started in 1995
  - Headquartered in Miramar, FL, USA (Miami area)



# Key Drivers of IaaS Price Compression

- Intense Competition
  - Market Domination
  - Pricing (poaching) as a lever to attract new customers
- Economies of Scale
  - Operational costs at scale
  - Automation
- Hardware and Efficiency Gains
- Customer Expectations
  - Need to fit the narrative of cost savings

# The Great Contradiction

- Pure IaaS margins have been a state of constant compression, while overall cloud margins have increased
- IaaS is a Low-Margin “Gravity” Product
- It’s all about the “upsell”
  - PaaS
  - AI and ML
  - SaaS
- Extremely sticky (Who is left to repatriate?)

Provider	Margin Trend (last 10 years)	Takeaway
IaaS (Market)	Strongly Decreasing	Price compression from competition has eroded the “pure” margin on commodity compute, network and storage.
AWS (Segment)	Consistently High	The “first mover”. Proved out the model of using IaaS to sell a massive ecosystem of other services.
Microsoft/Azure (Segment)	Strongly Increasing	The “bundling expert”. Successfully leveraged its enterprise software dominance to build a highly profitable cloud.
GCP (Segment)	Negative to Positive	The “investment story”. Sacrifice margins for a decade to gain market share, and it is now turning profitable.

# IaaS Market Share

**Table 1: Data Snapshot: Worldwide IaaS Public Cloud Services Market Share, 2023-2024**  
**(Millions of U.S. Dollars)**

Company	2024	2024	2023	2023	2023-2024
	Revenue	Market Share (%)		Revenue	
<b>Amazon</b>	64,804.9	37.7	54,664.0	39.0	18.6
<b>Microsoft</b>	41,099.3	23.9	32,205.7	23.0	27.6
<b>Google</b>	15,519.5	9.0	11,458.2	8.2	35.4
<b>Alibaba Group</b>					
<b>Huawei</b>	12,444.9	7.2	11,129.1	7.9	11.8
<b>Others</b>	7,082.2	4.1	5,979.7	4.3	18.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>171,754.6</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>140,204.2</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>22.5</b>

Source: Gartner (August 2025)

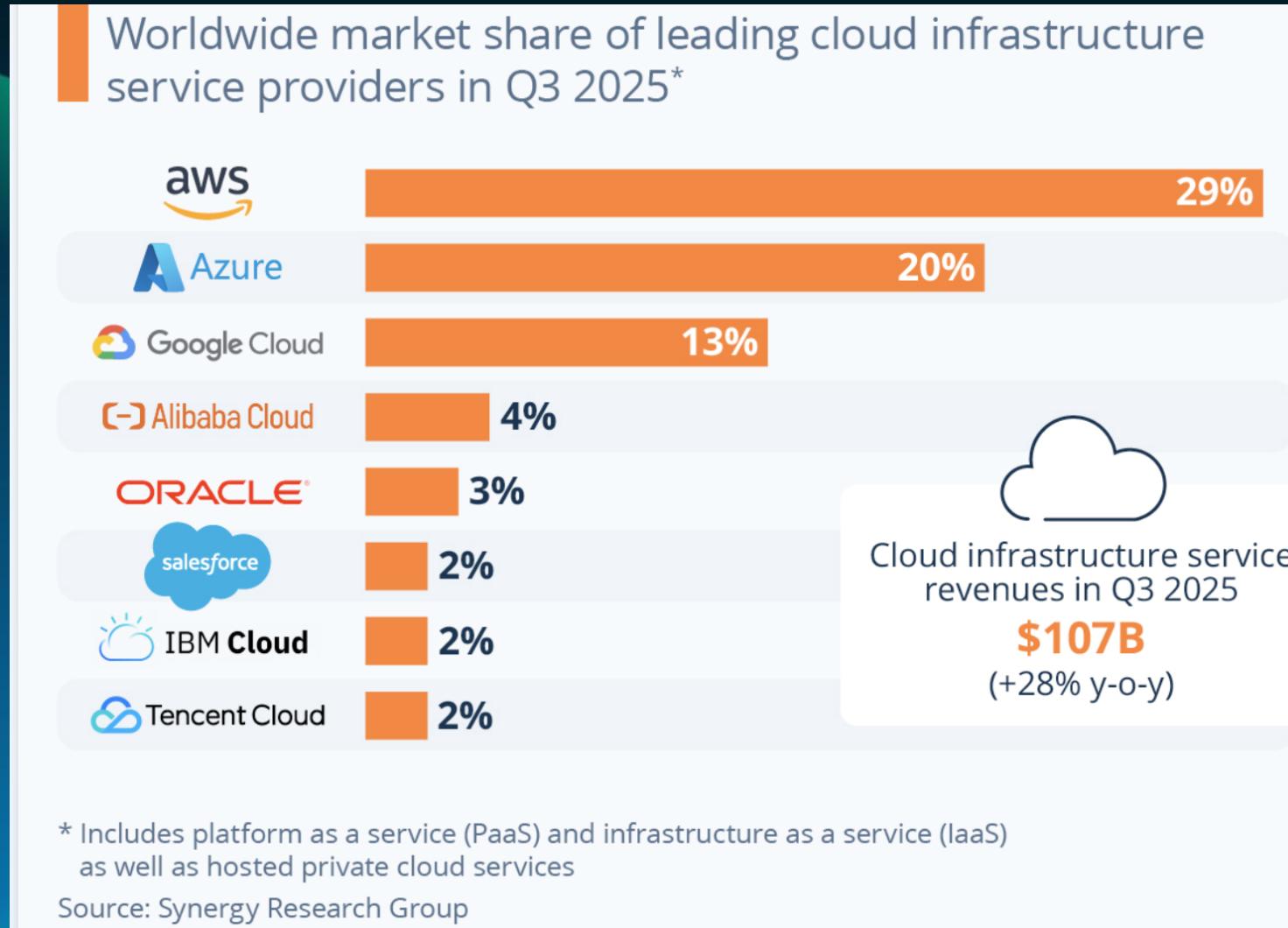
5 providers own 80% of the market

Regional growth has legs  
 Private Cloud

Regulatory influences –  
 Data sovereignty  
 "Gov" requirements  
 Security

0.1% Capture - US\$30M ARR

# IaaS+PaaS Market Share

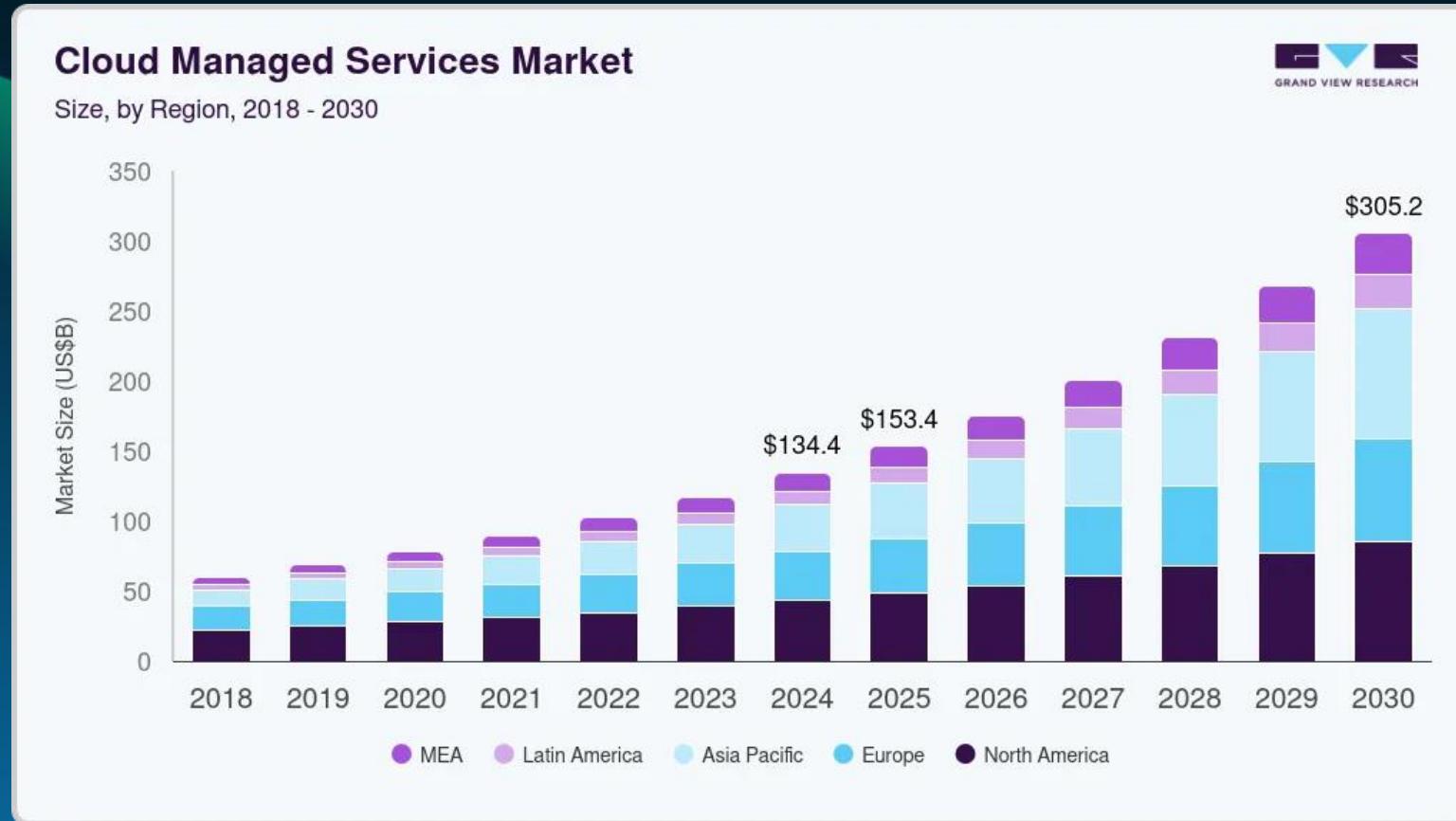


Mostly the same story

Azure benefits from 365 services

Strength from Chinese Companies

# TAM for Cloud Managed Services



USD\$153 billion in 2025

USD\$304 billion by 2030

Significant growth in MEA and the APAC regions

US market growing, but at a slower pace

Potential revenue capture by more targeted offerings

# Large Growth in Private Cloud

## GLOBAL PRIVATE CLOUD SERVICES MARKET 2025-2029



The market is **FRAGMENTED** with several players occupying the market



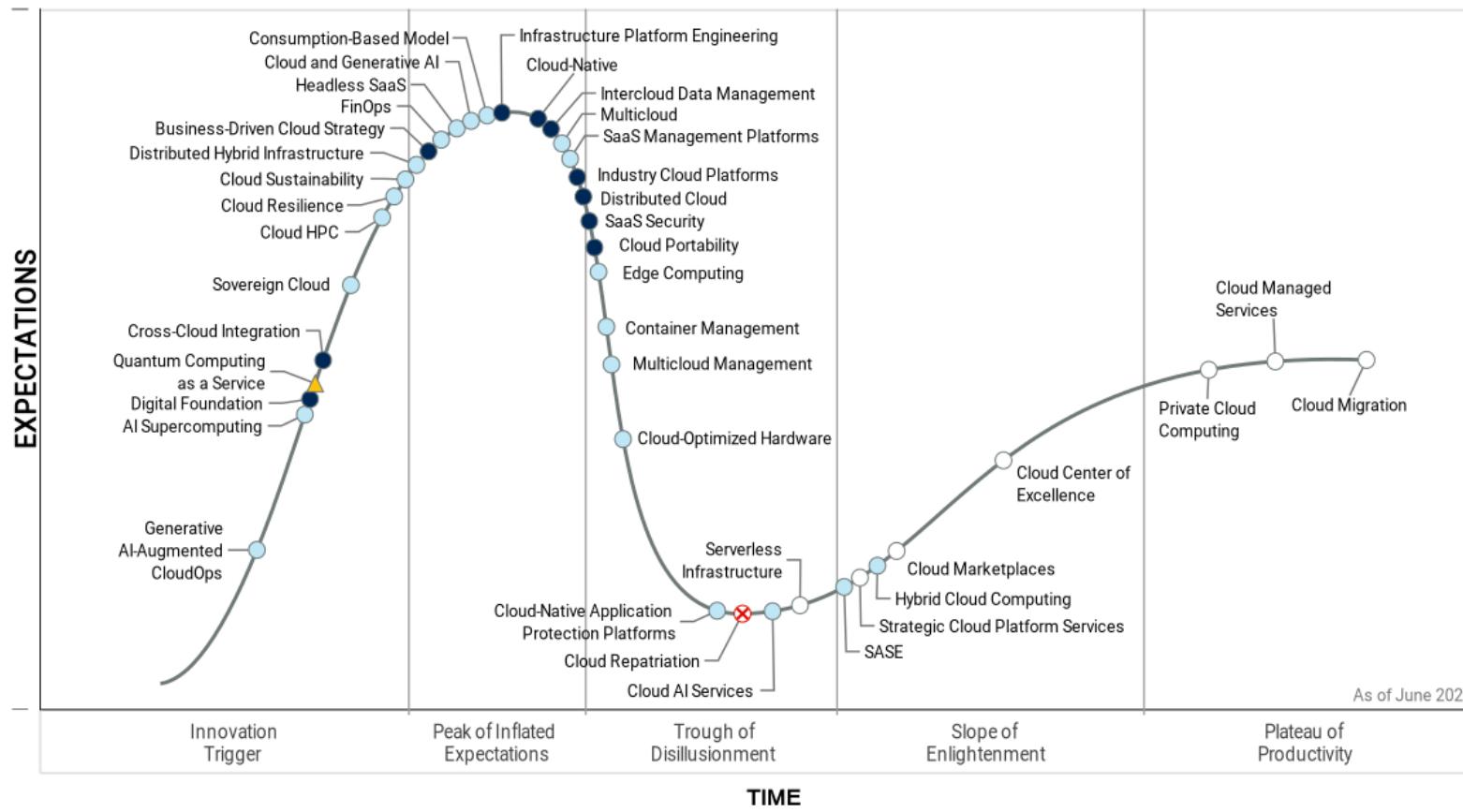
Rapid growth  
and BIG opportunities

A photograph of four people (three men and one woman) standing in front of a majestic mountain range during a sunset. The sky is filled with warm, orange and yellow hues. The people are dressed in casual to semi-formal attire. The man on the far left wears glasses and a checkered jacket. The man next to him wears a black t-shirt. The woman in the center wears a white blazer. The man on the far right wears glasses and a light blue shirt.

Influencers

# Industry Influencers

Hype Cycle for Cloud Computing, 2024



**Some accurate points –**  
 Private Cloud  
 Cloud Managed Services  
 Cloud Migration

**Off base?**  
 Cloud Repatriation  
 Edge Computing  
 Sovereign Cloud

**Wide Reaching Impact on Enterprise Decision Making**

# Pain Can Drive Decision Making

- Billing Complexity
  - In 2024, helping manage cloud cost was a USD\$2.4 billion business
- Hard to determine a true cost basis
- Proprietary services (e.g. Lambda, DynamoDB, Cloud Spanner)
- Impersonal and “Pay-to-Play” support
  - Expensive contracts (and commits) required for engineering level support

# Customer Sentiment: The “Frenemy” Problem

- Is Amazon going to sell against you?
- If you’re a software company (SaaS)-
  - is Microsoft, Oracle or Google going to compete?
- Are they going to make decisions...
  - ...in your best interest?
  - ...or in theirs?
- Wouldn’t your customers prefer a “real and committed” partner?

# How Do You Compete with the Hyperscalers?

- Avoid it if at all possible!
- Build something unique that creates a new market opportunity
  - Vertical focus
  - Differentiate and Innovate
  - World-Class Service (Delight your customers!)
  - Simple billing and packaging that helps your customers grow
    - How do your customers package their products or services?
      - Does the way you package your service help or hurt them?

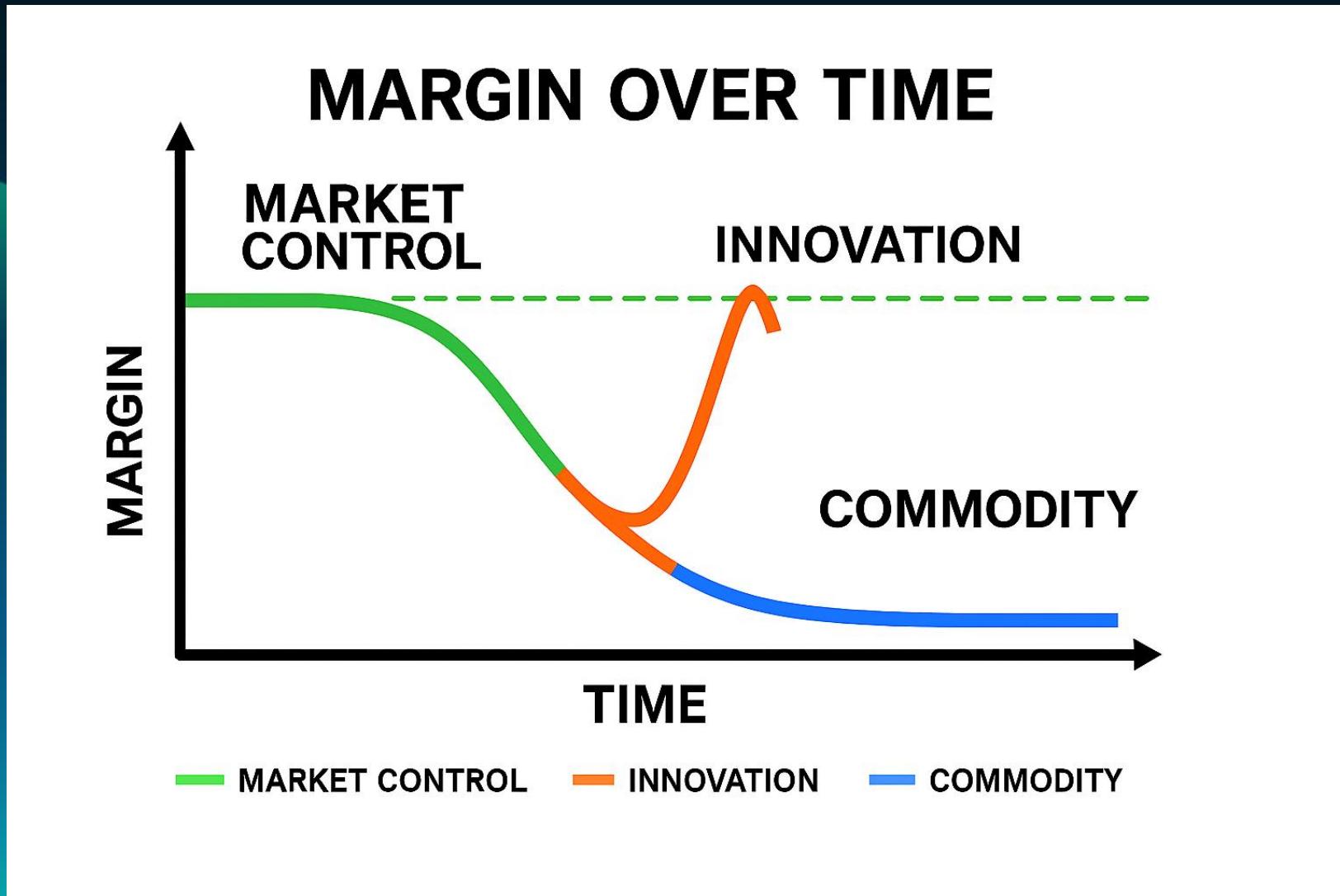
# Don't be Another Want-to-be Hyperscaler

- You're going to lose if you don't dominate your market
- **White space** - a broad, untapped market area with unmet or unarticulated customer needs that no existing competitor is adequately addressing.
- **Creating a niche** - capitalize on a defined, smaller, and often underserved segment within a market.
- There's lots of margin rich revenue in the mid-market
  - The big boys are interested in billions, not millions
    - Carve your own niche that is profitable and sustainable
    - Build your OWN market segment
    - Create value for your customers, and they'll create value for you

# The Power of the Ethnographic Study

- Visit your customers
  - Not to sell, but to learn
  - What are they trying to solve for?
  - What are their problems?
  - How are they going to grow (and how can you help them)?
  - How can YOU become a part of the solution
- Your customers need PARTNERS who are committed to THEIR success

# Service Margin Evolution



# How Does Apache CloudStack Help?

- Frees you up to innovate
  - No vendor lock in
  - Eliminates pure “cloud” licensing costs
  - A wealth of expertise at your finger-tips
    - Drives feature collaboration
    - Benefit from a huge ecosystem of talent
- Puts you in control of your OWN destiny

# CHOOSE YOUR CLOUD REALITY

