RACING TO THE CLOUD
CIO ANDREW WILSON

What would your enterprise look like if it was running virtually everything in the cloud... right here, right now? I can tell you that your business would be much more agile, running faster and with greater responsiveness to new needs. Your IT infrastructure would cost less, yet be more scalable and robust. Your internal customers would be happier, able to provision their IT needs without IT's help, starting and stopping cloud machines as their needs dictate.

And your c-suite would be ecstatic. In addition to getting lower IT costs, your company would be poised to move on its digital agenda more rapidly, thanks to streamlined IT operations. How do I know all this about your company? Because these are some of the benefits we see across our company today. Three years ago, Accenture was less than 10 percent cloud-based. Today, we are racing past 80 percent. Next year, we expect to exceed our goal of 90 percent cloud-based operation.

On our journey, we made valuable discoveries... You can move very fast into the cloud. We adopted a "cloud first, cloud only" strategy to drive our transformation, and it worked. New applications and infrastructure were provisioned for the cloud, from the very start. And we were able to migrate existing apps, even complex enterprise solutions, much faster than anyone thought possible.

But you need to think about more than technology when it comes to the cloud. What kind of cloud do you want...public, private or hybrid? Which will work best for your enterprise? When it comes to security, you need to aim high, very high...with aggressive metrics. Reducing your IT vulnerability exposure as close to zero as you can get. And increasing your ability to resolve incidents at speed and scale. As your IT operation works to stay one step ahead of the digital revolution, we would be happy to share our experience. What better way to spend a business day than with our heads in the cloud?