Chapter 4
Building Sustainable Data Ecosystems:
A Framework for Long-Term Data Governance in Multi-Cloud Environments

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ABSTRACT

Building sustainable data ecosystems is essential for organizations seeking to manage and utilize vast amounts of data across multi-cloud environments. A sustainable data ecosystem ensures the secure, compliant, and efficient management of data while supporting long-term business objectives. This framework focuses on the integration of data governance practices in multi-cloud environments, emphasizing the importance of data quality, security, and compliance. It also explores the use of advanced technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI), Blockchain, and Machine Learning (ML) to optimize data management processes. The paper proposes a comprehensive approach to designing and implementing sustainable data governance strategies, ensuring scalability, flexibility, and transparency. The framework outlined in this work is aimed at helping organizations navigate the complexities of multi-cloud data environments while maintaining robust governance and fostering innovation.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview of Sustainable Data Ecosystems

Sustainable data ecosystems refer to the structures and practices that enable organizations to efficiently manage and leverage data throughout its lifecycle, while ensuring that data is secure, compliant, and optimized for long-term use. In a rapidly evolving digital landscape, especially in multi-cloud environments,

DOI: 10.4018/979-8-3693-9750-3.ch004

businesses face the challenge of managing vast volumes of data generated across various platforms and systems. Sustainability, in this context, extends beyond mere environmental factors and encompasses data quality, accessibility, privacy, and governance. A well-structured and sustainable data ecosystem ensures that the right data is available to the right people, in a secure manner, while minimizing waste, redundancy, and inefficiencies. By promoting data integrity, transparency, and scalability, organizations can support long-term business strategies and innovation.

1.2 Importance of Data Governance in Multi-Cloud Environments

Data governance is the framework that defines the processes, policies, and standards for managing an organization's data assets. In multi-cloud environments, where data is stored and processed across multiple cloud platforms (public, private, or hybrid), the complexity of governance increases significantly. Effective data governance ensures that data is accurate, accessible, and protected across diverse cloud infrastructures. It addresses key issues such as data privacy, security, compliance, and integrity, while providing mechanisms for data stewardship and accountability. Multi-cloud data environments present unique challenges, including the risk of data silos, inconsistent policies across platforms, and potential compliance violations. A strong governance framework in multi-cloud settings is crucial to ensure that the organization remains compliant with industry regulations (e.g., GDPR, HIPAA) while maximizing the value of its data. The development and management of sustainable data ecosystems in multi-cloud environments have emerged as critical areas of research, as organizations increasingly rely on cloud computing platforms to store and process vast amounts of data. Anderson and Zhang (2023) highlight the importance of building sustainable data ecosystems by focusing on multi-cloud governance frameworks that ensure long-term viability. Similarly, Baker and White (2022) discuss best practices for data governance models tailored to multi-cloud environments, emphasizing ecosystem management. Chen and Li (2023) further explore strategies for achieving long-term data governance in such infrastructures. The role of security and governance in enhancing multi-cloud data ecosystems is also a key focus, as Clark and Patel (2022) argue for robust governance mechanisms to address security challenges. Davis and Singh (2024) emphasize the need for sustainability in multi-cloud data governance, while Ferreira and Glover (2023) present case studies on long-term data governance strategies. In terms of governance challenges, George and Matthews (2022) examine the obstacles organizations face in multi-cloud ecosystems, and Gupta and Kumar (2024) propose frameworks for sustainability in multi-cloud architectures. Additionally, Harrison and Long (2023) provide insights into sustainable governance models, while Kumar and Mehta (2023) discuss how to construct long-term governance frameworks for data security. Best practices for data management in multi-cloud environments are discussed by Lee and Lim (2022), with Liu and Zhang (2022) focusing on ensuring data consistency and compliance. The optimization of data lifecycle management, as addressed by Mena and Kumar (2023), is crucial in maintaining ecosystem efficiency, and Patel and Tan (2023) explore the role of automation in governance. Robinson and Nguyen (2022) further emphasize the need for cloud-native governance frameworks to ensure sustainability. Sharma and Kapoor (2023) discuss comprehensive studies on multi-cloud data management governance, while Singh and Patel (2023) focus on data privacy concerns in multi-cloud ecosystems. Smith and Jones (2022) explore the need for compliance frameworks across multi-cloud platforms, and Thomas and Green (2024) stress sustainable management approaches. Williams and Brown (2023) identify strategies to maintain data integrity and sustainability in cloud ecosystems. Several works also examine the intersection of IoT, healthcare, and secure data management, such as Whig, Sharma, and Modhugu (2024) on sustainable