

6 Capabilities Every Unified Cloud Data Platform Must Have

With GenAI adoption hitting 69%, the mandate is clear: 85% of data leaders cite cloud modernization as critical to AI/ML success. To meet this demand, technical leaders are consolidating fractured ecosystems into unified, cloud-native foundations to provide the trusted data and context required for scalable AI.

The Anatomy of an AI-Ready Data Architecture

Cloud modernization is a strategic pivot, not just a migration. To avoid the traps of legacy fragmentation, look for a cloud-first data platform defined by these core capabilities:

- 1

Comprehensive Platform
A true unified data platform does more than host tools in the cloud. It converges data integration, governance, quality and cataloging into a single, coherent system. Consolidating fragmented tools into a single, AI-powered foundation reduces complexity, cost and operational risk across the entire data lifecycle.


- 2

Elastic Data Integration
Move beyond legacy ETL platforms with a cloud-native integration layer that expands and contracts elastically based on your data volumes. Your platform should handle batch, streaming and real-time workloads across hybrid and multi-cloud environments without the need to re-engineer pipelines as business demands shift.


- 3

API and Application Integration
Modern architectures require more than just a data layer. They demand robust API and application integration capabilities. Because enterprise resource planning systems, SaaS platforms and operational apps act as both consumers and sources of data, a unified platform must connect to and orchestrate across them all without requiring separate integration tooling.


- 4

AI-Powered Metadata Intelligence
A unified platform must activate metadata rather than just store it. Embedded metadata intelligence automatically discovers data assets, maps relationships across the ecosystem, tracks end-to-end lineage and flags quality anomalies before they reach downstream consumers. For AI initiatives, this intelligence ensures models are trained on data that is understood, trusted and traceable to its source.


- 5

End-to-End Data Governance and Quality
Once cataloged, data assets are immediately available for governance policy enforcement; lineage flows across the entire data lifecycle, eliminating the need for manual reconstruction. Holistic data quality and observability ensure data integrated through the platform is automatically subject to established quality rules.


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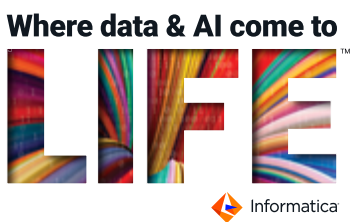
Security and Privacy Posture
Security and compliance must be non-negotiable standards. A unified data platform enforces data privacy policies, access controls and regulatory requirements uniformly through controls embedded directly in the platform, rather than through a separate compliance layer added on top.



Modernize. Consolidate. Accelerate.

LEARN MORE

Source: Informatica, Cloud Modernization and Tools Consolidation: A Technical Leader’s Guide to Scalable, Secure Growth, 2026



About Informatica
Informatica from Salesforce is a leader in AI-powered enterprise cloud data management. Its Intelligent Data Management Cloud (IDMC) platform enables organizations to connect, manage and unify AI-ready data across the enterprise. With capabilities spanning data cataloging, integration, governance, quality, privacy, metadata management and master data management, Informatica supports a broad partner ecosystem and helps customers unlock the full value of their data and AI initiatives.

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