

Enabling Digital Sovereignty Across Hybrid Environments

How Nutanix Helps You Take Control

Executive Summary

Digital sovereignty is now a strategic imperative due to geopolitical risks, regulations, and cyber-threats. For leaders, it is essential for business continuity, regulatory compliance, and innovation flexibility.

Digital sovereignty challenges arise from a combination of jurisdictional exposure, operational complexity, and fragmented governance across hybrid environments. As AI accelerates the pace of change, governance that must be rebuilt with every iteration risks re-interpreted policies and fragmented audit trails, steadily eroding the consistent control sovereignty requires.

While sovereignty depends on how and where systems are operated, and no platform can remove legal exposure or guarantee sovereignty, Nutanix helps organizations address sovereignty challenges with a software-defined infrastructure platform that provides a unified governance model across on-premises, edge, and cloud locations. Nutanix enables organisations to apply governance and security policies through a consistent framework across environments, helping reduce fragmentation and supporting more efficient workload mobility while reducing the need for extensive reconfiguration of governance models.

What Digital Sovereignty Means in Practice

Four practical dimensions for digital sovereignty align to the principles of the European Commission Cloud Sovereignty Framework:

- **Control:** Who owns, secures, and accesses your applications, infrastructure, and data?
- **Portability:** Can workloads, data, and databases move freely across environments without proprietary lock-in or operational redesign?
- **Operability:** Can your infrastructure and data operating model keep running—and be recovered—even if a vendor relationship changes?
- **Autonomy:** Do you have a genuine exit strategy—with no dependency on proprietary tools to move, recover, or govern your data?

A Strong Foundation for Enabling Sovereignty

As a recognized leader in distributed hybrid infrastructure*, Nutanix delivers a single software-defined platform with the consistent operating model, built-in governance, and freedom of choice that sovereign operations demand.

Control

Organizations need confidence that their data stays where policy and regulation require. With Nutanix, you can manage all workloads (applications, storage, databases, AI) across the IT estate from a single control plane, supporting consistent policy enforcement, subject to environment and configuration. The platform helps simplify data compliance using customer-managed identity policies, encryption key ownership, and capabilities to define and manage vendor access, depending on deployment model. Integrated security controls isolate threats, and snapshot-based disaster recovery preserves system integrity. Unlike hyperscaler platforms, Nutanix does not host customer data and can also support environments with limited or no external connectivity, helping reduce data exposure risks.

Portability

Organizations require the agility to move workloads and data across clouds or back on-premises without proprietary lock-in or operational penalty. Nutanix license portability means no renegotiation or replatforming when environments change, and security policies travel with the workload automatically. Built on open standards, Nutanix supports workload portability, depending on application architecture and dependencies, reducing the effort required to adapt governance across environments.

Operability

Organizations must be able to keep their infrastructure and data running—and recover it—even if a vendor relationship changes. Nutanix runs on any certified x86 hardware and supports modern applications across multiple hypervisors, container platforms, and public clouds, supporting operational continuity across supported environments. Organizations retain full platform use for their license term and maintain operational control in customer-managed deployments. A unified console with automated lifecycle management and self-healing architecture simplifies operations for in-house teams, even in air-gapped environments.

Autonomy

An exit strategy ensures vendor relationships don't compromise strategic control. Nutanix is built on open standards, reducing dependency on proprietary technology constraints; modern applications run in industry-standard containers deployable across a range of supported infrastructure environments. Organizations maintain a high degree of control over data, subject to deployment model and configuration, as well as encryption ownership, supported by local logging and immutable audit trails. Nutanix also provides independent recovery through ransomware-resistant snapshots, allowing organizations to restore operations on their own terms with governance and security policies intact. Different deployment models provide different levels of sovereignty (e.g., customer-operated deployments offer stronger controls than public cloud deployments) and must be assessed accordingly.

Why Open Source Alone Is Not Enough for Sovereignty

Open source software is often seen as a path to digital sovereignty, but variations in how that software is curated and supported, combined with standards that are not repeatable across environments, expose organizations to supply chain and potential security risks. The Nutanix platform delivers enterprise-ready open source with cross-product integration and timely security patches, helping reduce dependency on proprietary infrastructure components, while recognising that operational models and platform choices still influence overall flexibility.

Read more at

<https://www.nutanix.com/blog/why-open-source-cant-deliver-digital-sovereignty-by-itself#>

Sovereignty Is a Discipline, Not a Destination

Sovereignty is not a product feature, but a discipline shaped by legal, operational, and architectural decisions, many of which sit outside the platform itself. Enabling sovereignty requires a tiered approach, applying the strongest controls where stakes are highest (such as national security and critical infrastructure) and proportionate models elsewhere. By providing granular control in diverse environments and flexible policy configuration, Nutanix helps enable and strengthen sovereignty initiatives.

Learn more at [nutanix.com](https://www.nutanix.com).

*Nutanix recognized as a Leader in the 2025 Gartner® Magic Quadrant™ for Distributed Hybrid Infrastructure.