Proactive and bold digital transformation is imperative, not a choice
In 2021, the link between business value and investment will become amplified.

Steps to take in 2021
Organizations that hope to successfully persuade their Boards and shareholders to approve new investments will need to demonstrate tangible business value immediately and iteratively by adopting public and private cloud platforms.

- Workloads continue to shift to a combination of cloud platforms, with public cloud expected to grow 24.0% to 30.0% and private cloud in a service provider’s data center from 19.0% to 23.0% over the next year.

- Consider adopting various combinations of public and private cloud to gain the agility you crave.
- However, don’t neglect on-premises solutions, which also have an important role to play.

Increasingly, automation will lie at the core of successfully transforming digital businesses
Automation of processes and tasks that currently rely on manual human intervention will be the common element underpinning the most successful digital transformation initiatives, in the year ahead.

Steps to take in 2021
Be mindful that automation can present its own challenges when it comes to effective deployment.

- Why
  - Today, typical enterprise ICT ecosystems comprise a variety of products and technologies from different vendors.
  - The modernization of ICT and the associated automation of previously manual processes requires a mindset and skills shift.

- Look at ways to intelligently blend network data engineering and science, together with AI and machine learning.
- This will put you in a position to push the boundaries of what it’s possible to do with data, in ways never before imagined.

- It’s important to be clear about what you need to do from a cybersecurity standpoint to enable your digital transformation.
- Our advice is to start with the foundations and then work up the stack.

Recognition of cybersecurity’s role in a business’ digital enablement will intensify
In years gone by, data was something you used for intelligence purposes and the infrastructure carried the data; infrastructure is now a major generator of data.

Steps to take in 2021
Success lies in achieving the best end-user experience in this increasingly SaaS- and software-defined network paradigm, while maintaining adequate security.

- Look for more on this topic in our soon-to-be-published NTT Ltd. 2021 Hybrid Cloud Report, which will uncover more about the acceleration of those trends.