5 top tips for cloud transformation success

Whether you are just starting to migrate workloads to the cloud or operating a hybrid model with only some of your workloads in the cloud, there are 5 key areas you should consider to ensure cloud delivers value to your business.

Follow our 5 top tips for cloud success to optimise your cloud operations, ensure you avoid overspend and realise tangible business benefit from cloud.

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01 Put people first

While technology and processes play vital roles in driving transformation, it is people who play a critical role in achieving sustainable and successful outcomes.

Key people considerations include:

**// Leadership and organisational alignment:**
Executive endorsement will be needed to secure resources and support. Ensure clarity over the target end-state and steps needed to reach it. Your team needs to be aligned on the transformation goals. This will enable collaboration, reduce resistance, and create the supportive environment necessary for success.

// Change management and communication:
Effectively managing and communicating change will be critical. Explain what you're doing and why. Listen to and address any concerns, provide clear communication channels, and create a culture of transparency and trust. This will ensure new processes are adopted and governance is observed.

// Skill development or acquisition:
You may need new skills and capabilities to implement a new cloud operating model and governance framework. Identify skill gaps. You may need to design or acquire training, recruit, or get third-party support to address those gaps. Upskilling will improve output and support a culture that will see teams embrace and drive change.
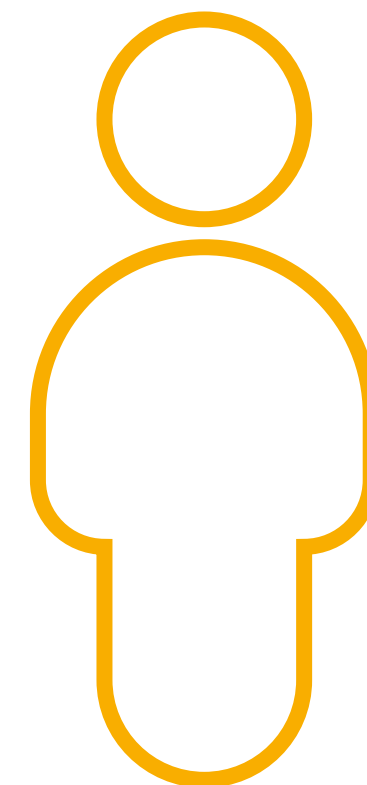
02 Get your cloud foundations right

Implement an effective cloud operating model and governance framework to benefit from:

// Clarity on strategy, priorities and direction: with everyone aligned and working towards the same goals, you're more likely to achieve them.

// Effective risk management: mitigate and monitor the risks associated with operating in the cloud.

// A blueprint for new governance: An inability to modernise approval governance will mean the benefits of cloud are constrained by bureaucratic processes that stifle agile delivery.

// Improved collaboration: common tools, processes and best practices will underpin collaboration and avoid duplication of effort across your teams.

A cloud operating model is made up of the processes, tools and organisational structures used to manage the cloud environment. It includes the policies, procedures and best practices that optimise cloud usage, ensure security and compliance, and manage costs effectively.

A cloud governance framework is the set of policies, procedures and controls that ensure the risks associated with cloud adoption are managed and that the use of cloud is aligned with business objectives.

03

Don't build your own landing zone

This is your opportunity to save time and money by deploying a proven landing zone product — there are several mature solutions available on the market.

They provide a fast-start solution which could save you months or even years of effort. If your organisation needs additional controls, they can be easily added.

Don't forget to ensure that your cloud operating model defines who is accountable for prioritising additional landing zone features as well as building out, maintaining and supporting the landing zone.

Not sure whether or why you need a landing zone? You'll find more info and resources here.

04 Make things easy for delivery teams

With the right operating model, a landing zone and a central cloud platform team, you empower your delivery teams to focus their efforts on delivering innovation to your business. You relieve them of the burden or distraction associated with infrastructure.

To get more workloads live in the cloud, your central cloud platform team need to implement a 'shared responsibility model' – this is where they become responsible for providing, configuring and/or controlling specific cloud services.

If they make an opinionated (wrapped) version of services **(Service Catalogue)** available to your delivery teams using your landing zone, you can enforce best practice and your delivery teams won't need to provision services themselves. Ultimately this will mean they spend less time selecting and configuring cloud services and more time delivering new products to your customers and employees.

Ensure that things remain easy for your delivery teams by making your central cloud platform team accountable. They need to operate a service for delivery teams and they should always listen to feedback from their customer and improve their service accordingly.

Added advantages of a Service Catalogue

// Consistent platform evolution: your central team can add new cloud services and features to your Service Catalogue as they become available but only if appropriate. Your platform stays up-to-date as cloud technology advances.

// Easier cost management: If delivery teams have the freedom to select and acquire whatever services they want to use, you can end up with a proliferation of services being consumed and costs can rise unexpectedly.

// Reduce effort and duplication: if you don't have a Service Catalogue, teams will waste time building their own versions.

// You won't suffer from technology sprawl: The more flexibility and choice you provide to delivery teams, the greater the risk of they will choose different service options or configurations. You end up with a proliferation of services that is hard to manage and maintain.

// Improve risk mitigation: If delivery teams are expected to configure services themselves and apply their own risk mitigation controls and guardrails, there will be inconsistent (and possibly insufficient) risk mitigation across your cloud estate.

05 Adopt a phased migration approach

The best way to get more software running reliably in production is by taking a phased approach to your migration.

Deploy an MVP landing zone for low-risk pilot workloads first followed by rapid uplifts of the landing zone enabling the migration of workloads with increasingly higher risk profiles.

As your cloud platform continues to evolve, the right governance and a collaborative planning process will ensure that minor landing zone features can be added relatively easily. This will stop the availability of a specific feature blocking a specific migration.

How you phase the migration of specific applications will depend on:

// Risk: You can't migrate higher risk and mission critical workloads to the cloud until your landing zone is mature enough to effectively manage those risks.

// Competitive pressure: You may need to prioritise migrating some applications in order to stay competitive.

// Potential cost savings and contractual pressure: Moving expensive on-premise workloads quickly will obviously save you money. Data centre contract renewals might mean it makes financial sense to transition out of the data centre sooner rather than later.

// Scalability and resilience: Bottlenecks and failings in the current on-prem solution may necessitate a move to cloud but that transition is likely to require re-architecture and re-engineering which will need to be factored into your roadmap.