



7 Key Factors for Cloud Success

These days, moving to the cloud brings important benefits to your business. But it's no easy task. Many people we've talked to have said that, if they had it all to do over again, they would have done things more methodically.

The risks and rewards of cloud migration

We always remind our clients that modernizing to the cloud is not a onetime event. Cloud migration is about starting small and continuing to build and adapt as you grow. That's why it's crucial to set your goals, vision and strategy up front. When you create a good pattern of work, you can go forward secure in the knowledge that you'll be doing all the right things at the exact right time.

In fact, we've seen that moving to the cloud can often reveal---or even accelerate---your weaknesses. Without doing due diligence upfront, your team can fumble the process and be forced to start all over again.

Working with hundreds of companies over the years, we've been able to pinpoint seven key factors that help guarantee cloud success. We've seen time after time that following these common-sense rules helps remove the uncertainty, inefficiency, and errors involved in cloud migration.

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Read on to find out how these seven key factors help guarantee cloud success:

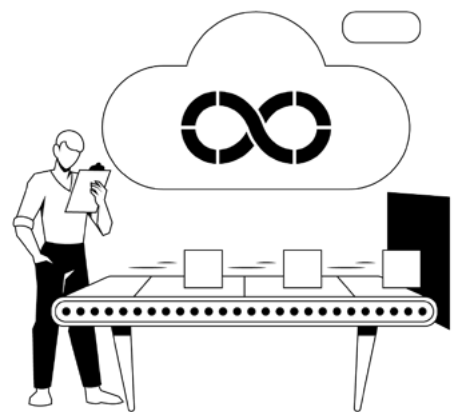
- Get the basics of your cloud foundation right early
- Recognize that most of cloud migration means changing culture and behaviors
- Use WSJF prioritization to determine early adopters and prove out program and platform readiness
- Focus on cost-savings, risk management and ROI
- Include compliance and security early and often
- Own the process and platforms even if parts of it are outsourced

Get The Basics Of Your Cloud Foundation Right Early

Too many companies want to jump right into the deep end. But a successful cloud migration requires laying the groundwork—your architectural runway—right from the start. It's important to get the basics in place and understand your landing zones and optimal initial approach. Take the time to focus on your infrastructure, DevOps, and migration plan.

It's important to remember that you don't need to design the entire foundation all at once. You only have to map out what is required to migrate for the near term. As the process goes on you will continually iterate upon your initial foundation; it's smart to evolve as you learn.

Remember that getting the basics right always means being customer centric; focusing on both your end clients and your internal customers. Make absolutely sure you know what your customers need so that you can create the right applications at the right time. That's yet another reason it's crucial to have your DevOps in place from the beginning.



Moving to the Cloud:

- ***31% average savings on infrastructure costs***
- ***3x more features delivered per year***
- ***62% boost in IT staff productivity***

Recognize That Most Of Cloud Migration Means Changing

Cloud migration is more than a technical transformation. It requires a structural and cultural transformation on the part of your entire organization. Moving to the cloud creates real change for everyone involved. It permeates across the entire business; the formation of teams will change, and roles and responsibilities will shift. Your teams will need to flex new muscles in technology, process and the alignment of people.

Successfully moving to the cloud requires breaking down silos and removing rigid structures. And—most importantly of all—it means commitment from leadership to bring teams together, so they move faster, create rapid implementation and perform faster turnaround. The real challenge to cloud adaptation is that you will have to create new skill sets and roles to fit into your cloud-enabled organization. You'll soon discover you need additional training as well as an experienced partner to help align your teams for success.

Never underestimate the cultural change that goes along with a successful cloud process.

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Use WSJF Prioritization To Determine Early Adopters And Prove Out Program And Platform Readiness

WSJF—weighted shortest job possible—can help deliver the greatest business and technical value weighed against effort, so that you can more effectively order the items in your cloud migration. WSJF gives you confidence you're planning out your waves to deliver the greatest business or technical value. It's a relatively easy way to prove out important aspects of your cloud foundation and drive your plan for executing your migration.

It's important to remember that the process isn't etched in stone. You will continue to change your prioritization as the project proceeds. That's why our golden rule is to continually INSPECT, ADAPT and ITERATE. After you execute your first wave, your prioritization of future waves will need to be studied and reevaluated. Flexibility is key to the

process; your values will change over time. So, continue to take lessons learned as you move forward to make sure you're in line with where the organization is going strategically.

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Focus On Cost-Savings, Risk Management And ROI

There are plenty of smart reasons to migrate to the cloud, cost savings being one of the most important. Over 70% of any organizations' top cloud initiative is optimizing the existing use of the cloud through cost savings. In fact, over 75% of organizations use cost efficiency and savings to measure their cloud progress.* While cloud might not be necessarily cheaper, it should help you achieve a better ROI because you're able to turn over working software much faster.

Still, the biggest danger with the cloud is runaway costs. That's why you should always be watching not just how to optimize your cloud footprint to generate value, but also how you can save money through the use of cloud native technologies which maximize value with a lower spend.

Managing risks exposed by moving from your in-house data center to the cloud also means using services provided by the cloud to look at two important things. First, focus on the overall spend and identify areas in which you can cut down costs. Secondly, carefully study the risk profile of what

you're creating and look for ways to help manage that risk.

When it comes to cost management, we emphasize two fundamental practices. First, reduce costs by taking advantage of the savings provided by your cloud providers. This generally doesn't require refactoring the architecture. Secondly, optimize costs by refactoring to leverage other services or technologies to make an application cloud native.

It's easy to avoid risk if you do the due diligence required.

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Include Compliance And Security Early And Often

Another crucial factor to successfully manage risk is to engage your Compliance and Security teams right from the start. They can't be an afterthought.

With these teams there is the opportunity to "shift left" the models to provide an optimized path to production by aligning value added activities and reducing overhead. Most likely, these teams will need training on cloud fundamentals and concepts to implement and audit these technologies.

Cloud Technologies can also provide new opportunities to enable robust security and compliance practices through the use of built-in scalable and comprehensive cloud features that are enabled rather than custom-built by your organization.

Compliance and Security need to be involved not only in the upfront strategic planning stage, but also along every step of the way as the larger build-out proceeds. This avoids bigger problems down the road, because the last thing you want is to suddenly discover you have to retrofit and rebuild after the fact.

Cloud Technologies can provide new opportunities to enable robust security and compliance practices through the use of built-in scalable and comprehensive cloud features.



Own The Process And Platforms Even If Parts Of It

We constantly remind our clients that they are the owner of their cloud project. Even if they have outsourced the project, they need to take full responsibility for the process and platforms going forward.

It all comes back to one of our fundamental tenets: you have to be the owner of your cloud from end to end, so you have accountability and governance. It's all part of the cloud transformation and cultural change you need at the heart of your cloud journey.

Giving team members specific program ownership also provides key accountability control.

Even if you've outsourced the migration, once you're on the cloud you're faced with a continually evolving ecosystem which you will need to build out and evolve with your business. Your organizational capabilities need to be in place, or you will not fully leverage that platform or get the benefits of your investment.

It starts with having real visibility over every aspect of the project. Your cloud provider will have plenty of excellent tools that can give you quantifiable data. It's crucial to be able to measure reliable data rather than simply rely on guesswork or opinion. The secret is to measure that data from the beginning and throughout the entire development process. Use it as part of your improvement cycle to get valuable and reliable guidance on everything from spending and metrics to usage and adoption. The bottom line is this: don't take others' opinions. Let the tools collect the data and tell the real story.

And be sure your thinking is aligned with your objectives and key results so that you're always measuring the overall value of the cloud and your vision alignment. Too often this isn't done properly.

It's simple. Take advantage of the multiple services the cloud offers such as the tagging and budgeting strategies that can help you access the metrics, value, monitoring and control you need.

Automate Across Your SDLC Lifecycle

Using every tool possible to automate and measure across your SDLC lifecycle is the secret to success in the cloud. Automation is the ultimate enabler on your cloud journey to provide standardization, repeatability and time savings across your portfolio.

There are many tools out there that can help make it easier, more efficient and more effective.

The good news is you don't need to custom build your own solutions or go with manual processes: rely on the automation tools that are available. Leverage the existing services the cloud provides through each step of the lifecycle, from inception and development all the way to rollout and monitoring. That means building your cloud the correct way to enable that automation. And, in keeping with your continuous improvement on the cloud, it means collecting the right data to drive the right business decisions you want to make through automation.

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Learn, Build, Grow And Succeed

Cloud migration is important to your business. That's why it's important to get it right.

We've seen time and time again that if you stay true to these 7 simple yet fundamental practices, you'll build a cloud product that can withstand challenges, avoid risks, save time and money and build and evolve as your business grows.

Get the basics right early, focus on managing risks, involve key stakeholders, automate throughout the lifecycle and own the process. And, above all, view your cloud transformation as a cultural transformation. If you do all that, you'll be well on your way to a successful and productive cloud existence.

We can help. Here at Cognizant Softvision, we have years of experience and a team of experts to help get you onto the cloud quickly and efficiently. From strategic planning to implementation, our exclusive process can help you Fast Forward your business today. To talk about your next project, visit us at [CognizantSoftvision.com](https://www.cognizantsoftvision.com)

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Cognizant Softvision

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