

DEVisING A SECURE CLOUD STRATEGY

Whether you are already using the cloud or not, you should have a cloud strategy in place. All too often, we talk to leaders that have deployed workloads and data to the cloud but lack a broader strategy behind those efforts. And we hear from many of them how they have not achieved the results they were hoping for.

If there is one word to describe the opportunities that exist within the cloud and how it can impact your business, it's "transformation," whether big or small. And that means transformation not only for your business but for how IT does its business, and how security and compliance get done as well.

We've created the following checklist to help you create and enhance your cloud strategy. We've devised other assets as well that can help you accelerate your efforts from strategy formulation to actual cloud migration. So be sure to check those out.

CLOUD STRATEGY CHECKLIST

SPONSORS, STAKEHOLDERS, AND TEAM MEMBERS

YES	NO	N/A	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Does your cloud strategy have an executive sponsor?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Have you identified key stakeholders with a vested interest in the formulation, implementation, and success of your cloud strategy?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Have you assessed your team, team skill sets, team structure, and company structure skill sets currently in place to support your overall cloud strategy?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Have you outlined training requirements for existing team members?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Have you identified required skill sets and expertise to support your cloud strategy for the next 12/18 months?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Have you assessed whether your organization will engage a third party for assistance with the execution and success of your cloud strategy? If so, outline areas where assistance is needed.

DUE DILIGENCE

YES	NO	N/A	
			Have you summarized the discussions and research (internal and/or third-party) conducted as part of the formulation of the strategy, as well as key contributors?
			Have you clearly shown how your cloud strategy represents a linear reflection of overall business and IT strategic objectives?
			Have you articulated current and/or future planned use of containers and related orchestration platforms?
			Have you identified any targets or are you currently planning to deploy microservices architecture in the cloud?
			Have you articulated current and/or planned usage of serverless technologies in the cloud?
			Have you reviewed and identified emerging cloud capabilities such as Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning that may be of relevance and importance to your organization in the future?
			Have you assessed native big data analytics capabilities in the cloud that may be of relevance and importance to your organization?

TRANSFORMATION AND MODERNIZATION

YES	NO	N/A	
			Does your cloud strategy reflect consideration of opportunities to transform/modernize aspects of the business and/or aspects of IT operations and even Security & Compliance operations? Discussions with leadership, stakeholders, and third-party consultants (business and/or technical), as needed, may help to identify and coalesce around specific objectives for transformation.
			Have you provided sufficient information for the major initiatives that make up your strategy?

ROADMAP

YES	NO	N/A	
			Does your plan include a detailed 12-to-18-month roadmap of all the executable initiatives that make up your strategy?

CLOUD POLICY

YES	NO	N/A	
			Will your organization have a cloud-agnostic policy?
			Will your organization have a multi-cloud strategy or policy, now or in the future?
			Have you articulated approved use cases for the public cloud(s)?

CLLOUD MIGRATION FRAMEWORK

YES	NO	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Because your cloud strategy and cloud migration efforts often intertwine, have you consulted a cloud migration framework for guidance on what application information to collect and how to prioritize application workloads? (Feel free to consult *The Secure Cloud Migration Framework* published by Armor for help - See "Articulate Requirements" under "Assess & Plan").

Have you performed an assessment of your existing application infrastructure to identify workloads for migration to the cloud?

Have you identified current applications that could be replaced through a third-party SaaS application?

Have you identified SaaS applications currently in use where expanded usage could replace applications hosted internally?

FINANCIAL AND OPERATIONAL METRICS

YES	NO	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Have you articulated the metrics that will be applied to measure progress of your overall cloud strategy?

Have you articulated the types of metrics that will be applied to individual initiatives within your cloud strategy?

Have you identified native analytics capabilities in the cloud your organization is likely to use?

CURRENT IT ENVIRONMENT

YES	NO	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Have you performed an inventory of your environment—physical sites, networks, systems, applications, and data? Look across both production and development environments.

Have you mapped interdependencies between applications? This will be useful for your future migration efforts.

PLAN FOR RETIREMENT

YES	NO	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Have you clearly identified any sites, infrastructure, applications, and other resources that are to be decommissioned/retired? Have you identified any cost savings and/or recoverable costs and whether those have been factored into ROI models?

RISK

YES	NO	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Have you articulated risk to the business, risk to successful attainment of your cloud strategy objectives, and risks to individual key initiatives within your cloud strategy?

SECURITY AND COMPLIANCE IN THE CLOUD

YES	NO	N/A	
			Have you consulted the Secure Cloud Migration Framework for insights and guidance on proper security controls in the cloud?
			Have you provided a construct for cybersecurity policies and practices overall for securing your cloud environments? We recommend this construct address both "accidental" and "intentional" cyber risk.
			Have you articulated a strategy or construct for unified security and visibility across a hybrid IT environment?
			Have you articulated applicable compliance frameworks your organization is subject to, and have you identified requirements for compliance across your environment and workloads in the cloud?
			Have you addressed how security and compliance practices are to be tied into development CI/CD cycles, if applicable?
			Have you articulated your Incident Response planning for potential incidents affecting cloud resources?
			Does your team have the right cloud and cloud security expertise on staff?
			Have you outlined training requirements for existing team members?

VENDOR PERFORMANCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT

YES	NO	N/A	
			Have you listed key partners, vendors, or suppliers required for execution of your cloud strategy?
			Have you outlined a Vendor Management plan or risk mitigation associated with affiliates, partners, and suppliers?
			Do customers present a risk of exposure of applications and data in the cloud? If so, do you have a mitigation plan to address this type of risk?

THE SECURE CLOUD STRATEGY TEMPLATE



A Ready-Made Template to Accelerate Your Cloud Strategy Formulation Efforts

