

Managing the Cloud Journey

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Cloud computing delivers computing services—including servers, storage, databases, networking, software, analytics, and intelligence—over the internet ("the cloud"). Cloud computing enables users to access resources and services on-demand and pay only for what they use rather than having to maintain and manage their own infrastructure.

Cloud computing allows users to scale their consumption up or down easily based on their changing needs. Without investing in expensive hardware or infrastructure, users only pay for what they use on a subscription or pay-per-use basis. The Cloud offers users the comfort of working from anywhere, on any device, as long as they have an internet connection making it easier for companies to support remote work and enable collaboration across different locations.

Technologies like Cloud have lowered the barriers to entry for new startups and entrepreneurs, enabling them to develop and launch new products and services quickly and cost-effectively. Cloud computing has made it easier and more cost-effective for organizations to store and process large amounts of data and to derive insights and value from that data using advanced analytics and machine learning.

Cloud technologies have profoundly impacted how businesses operate, and people work and collaborate, enabling greater efficiency, flexibility, and innovation.

Amazon Web Services (AWS) is a subsidiary of Amazon.com that offers a wide range of cloud computing services, including computing power, storage, and databases, as well as analytics, machine learning, and IoT services. AWS has been the market leader in cloud computing for several years and currently holds around 32% of the global cloud infrastructure market.

Microsoft Azure is a cloud computing service offered by Microsoft that provides a range of services, including computing, storage, networking, and analytics. Azure is the second-largest cloud provider, with around 20% of the global cloud infrastructure market.

Google Cloud Platform (GCP) is a suite of cloud computing services offered by Google, including computing, storage, databases, and machine learning and holds around 9% of the global cloud infrastructure market.

Alibaba Cloud is the cloud computing arm of Alibaba Group, which provides a range of cloud services, including computing, storage, databases, and analytics. Alibaba Cloud is the largest cloud provider in China and has around 6% of the global cloud infrastructure market.

IBM Cloud is a suite of cloud computing services offered by IBM, including computing, storage, networking, and AI services. IBM Cloud holds around 4% of the global cloud infrastructure market.

Besides these large MNCs, many other companies also offer cloud-based services and solutions to businesses and consumers.

Managing cloud computing for your organization requires a range of skills and knowledge. Experience with automation and scripting tools, such as PowerShell or Bash, to automate cloud infrastructure management and configuration is vital; knowledge of infrastructure as code (IaC) tools such as Terraform and Ansible is critical. Understanding of cloud security best practices with the familiarity of security tools and protocols, such as identity and access management (IAM), encryption, and firewalls.

Data management and analytics tools, such as data lakes, data warehouses, and machine learning, help organizations derive insights and value from their data—project management methodologies, such as Agile or Waterfall, to effectively manage cloud migration and deployment projects.

Strong communication and collaboration skills to work effectively with stakeholders across your organization, including developers, operations teams, and business leaders, is imperative.

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