

## Design, implement and manage a successful cloud environment

### Get the elements right to realize the benefits of cloud



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The key to creating a successful cloud environment – be it public, private or a hybrid – is to think it through properly. What business benefits do you want from cloud? These should inform your cloud and IT strategy, which will then guide everything you do and help you answer questions such as what to put in the cloud.

Once you've pinpointed what you want to achieve with cloud, you can start to define what your cloud architecture needs to look like. Every business is different, but just as with your on-premise architecture, you can take advantage of proven design patterns to reduce risk, speed up delivery and ensure you procure the right Oracle capabilities for your business.

#### Getting started in the cloud

With your strategy and architecture plans in place, you can select your first cloud project. It's best to begin in a low-risk area that will deliver a quick win. This can be the proving ground. When it's successful and your business starts to see the benefits of cloud, other areas will demand the same capability. This will help you build your business case for further investment.

A good place to begin is your development and test environment, because it's non-critical and it will help demonstrate the value of cloud to your IT department, who'll be the driving force behind and evangelists for your future cloud capabilities.



## Design, implement and manage a successful cloud environment (continued)

At each stage when you're deciding what to put in the cloud next, let your strategy guide you and focus on business value: what will get you the most bang for your buck?

## Licensing considerations

Licensing is a tricky area to navigate at the best of times, and is exacerbated as you transition from on-premise to the cloud. As with other parts of your cloud strategy, make sure you fully understand your on-premise license situation and ensure it's in order before you think about cloud. Are you getting the best value from your spend on Oracle licenses? Could you rationalize to be more cost-efficient? Is there headroom in your current licenses to achieve your cloud vision, or do you need additional ones?

Doing so will give you the peace of mind that you're fully compliant and help you avoid a mad dash if you're audited. If you're unsure, it's best to ask an expert to guide you.

## Maintaining your cloud environment

When you buy a new car, everything works as the brochure promised. To keep this level of performance, you need to maintain it regularly. Your IT estate is the same: if you're to keep (and indeed enhance) the levels of performance your business will come to expect, you must give it the attention it needs to remain performant, available and secure.

## Your route to cloud success

Get these critical elements right, and you'll be well on the way to realizing the benefits of cloud. Having said that, it's important to be realistic and understand you will face challenges and push-back along the way. That's why the final piece in this guide looks at some of the most common issues you're likely to come up against and suggests ways you can overcome them, to ensure your journey to the cloud remains on track.

Again, before you think about cloud, consider how well you're managing your on-premise environment. Once you get this capability in order, you'll be in a strong position to think about how you evolve it to the cloud.

Are you proactively maintaining and monitoring your systems in real time? Do you have appropriate levels of production rigor in place? Are you looking ahead to see what you'll need in six months' time, a year's time and beyond, and making the required changes as part of a carefully defined plan? Doing this will help avoid nasty surprises and last-minute panics when capability is required

or components of your architecture go out of support.

As a result, less will go wrong, you'll enjoy higher availability, have more satisfied users and customers and upgrades or changes will have less impact on your business.

One option is to do this active maintenance yourself, provided you've got the resources to give it the attention it requires (once a quarter or once a year isn't sufficient – it needs to be ongoing). Alternatively, look to partner with a managed service specialist. Note that by 'partner' we don't just mean 'outsource' and forget about it. Partnering should see your teams working closely with the managed service specialists to identify enhancements and drive better performance from your cloud estate.

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**"Partnering should see your teams working closely with the managed service specialists"**

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## Your pathway to success

Cintra is a multi-award winning Global Oracle Platinum partner and Enterprise Architecture specialist operating in the Americas, Europe and Asia. Cintra focuses on enterprises undergoing digital transformation strategies in Retail, Financial Services, Gaming and other verticals; becoming a trusted partner for organizations investing in Oracle Business Technology – delivering value by helping architect the digital enterprise.

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### FURTHER READING:

Best Practice Guide: Cloud computing: How you can unleash the benefits in your business

Opinion: Five reasons your business needs cloud

Opinion: What every business must do before moving to the cloud

Opinion: Overcome the challenges of cloud

Case study: GVC Gaming boosts efficiency and reduces costs with an Oracle Exadata and cloud strategy

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