Cloud Operating Model Readiness Assessment: An Introduction
Before beginning any Cloud migration, a maturity assessment is a vital first step to measure your organization’s readiness.

That’s why we’ve created this easy-to-use readiness assessment based on our Cloud Operating Model.

The series of questions that accompanies each component will reveal your organization’s strengths and advantages (as well as any deficiencies and blind spots), so you’ll know exactly where you stand and what the necessary next steps are.

To complete the assessment, simply assign one point to each question you can answer “yes” to, and then add the totals from each section to see your maturity and readiness level score.

Ready? Let’s get started!
The 12 Pillars of the Enterprise Cloud Operating Model (COM)

This is the foundational playbook to build and operate your cloud on any platform.

- Education
- Account Structure
- Common Services
- Network
- Storage, Backup & Disaster Recovery
- Identity & Access Management
- Automation & Orchestration
- Enterprise Service Management Integration
- Governance
- Monitoring & Operations
- Security
- Cost Controls
Pillar #1: Education

Give yourself 1 point for every question you can answer with a “yes”

› Have you set a charter for your Cloud Center/Community of Excellence?

› Do you have defined roles for your Cloud Community?

› Have you assigned a senior leader to oversee the CCOE or similar efforts?

› Do you have training plan for each team member?

› Do you host regular cross-team lunch and learns?

POINT TOTAL _______
Pillar #2: Account Structure

Give yourself 1 point for every question you can answer with a “yes”

- Do you have existing accounts or subscriptions, and if so how well are they designed according to best practices around security, account management, etc.?

- (AWS) Are you using AWS Organizations with a root billing account? Are AWS SCPs being utilized?

- Have you solidified how and when to carve out additional Cloud Accounts/Subscriptions?

- (GCP) How do you have your hierarchy set up under your root org? Do you have billing configured through your company or do users pay individually?

POINT TOTAL _______
Pillar #3: Common Services

Give yourself 1 point for every question you can answer with a “yes”

› Will you be deploying operating systems with Active Directory requirements in the cloud landing zone?

› Is there a plan for patching Windows Operating Systems in Cloud landing zone?

› Is there a plan for patching Linux Operating systems in cloud landing zone?

› Do you have a defined process for building and maintaining hardened Operating System images for use in VM provisioning across your public cloud platforms?

› Do you have a services onboarding mechanism to determine how new Cloud services are made operational ready?

POINT TOTAL ______
Pillar #4: Network

Give yourself 1 point for every question you can answer with a “yes”

› Are you utilizing third party Network / firewall appliances to control Inbound and outbound traffic to cloud services?
› Do you feel comfortable with your ability to secure and inspect Cloud-Native (PaaS) Services?
› Are your public cloud platforms being used for internet-facing public applications?
› How many global public cloud regions are being utilized? Are there plans to expand the global footprint?
› What are the authorized ways to access your public cloud environments? Do all users need to be on the corporate network or VPN?
› What type of connectivity exists between your data center(s) and public cloud platforms? Do you use VPNs or dedicated connections?
› Do you have defined templates for virtual networks including private/public subnet and CIDR ranges?
› What level of software-defined or automation exists for your network infrastructure?

POINT TOTAL _______
Pillar #5: Storage, Backup, & Disaster Recovery

Give yourself 1 point for every question you can answer with a “yes”

- If you have an on-prem environment, are you backing up or utilizing Public Cloud as your DR environment?

- Do you have standardized backup policies for public cloud IaaS resources and have you tested for recoverable backups for different workload categories?

- If you are using non-IaaS public cloud services, do you have a backup policy and toolset in place to cover these?

POINT TOTAL ______
Pillar #6: Identity & Access Management

Give yourself 1 point for every question you can answer with a “yes”

› Have you implemented a standard identity and access management approach on your public cloud environments? This would include entitlement mappings, federated identity management, MFA, and integrations with existing systems such as Active Directory.

› (for GCP) are you using Cloud Identity or some other mechanism today?

› Do you enforce separation of duties and least privilege access, and reduced reliance on long term credentials?

POINT TOTAL _______
Pillar #7: Automation & Orchestration

Give yourself 1 point for every question you can answer with a “yes”

- Are you utilizing Infrastructure as Code for deployment of Cloud Services?

- Do you utilize CI/CD practices across your application portfolio? Do you have DevOps capabilities for automated deployments and builds? How are these releases integrated with your Change Management process?

- Are you utilizing Automation scripts to support day 2 operations of Cloud Services?

POINT TOTAL _______
Pillar #8: Enterprise Service Management Integration

Give yourself 1 point for every question you can answer with a “yes”

- Are you utilizing Self-Service catalog capabilities to provide standard deployments to your internal cloud consumers?
- Are you integrating cloud platform incidents and changes into your ESM platform?
- Are you tracking Cloud Service Assets in CMDB?
- Have your change, configuration, and incident management processes been adjusted for cloud infrastructure and applications?

POINT TOTAL _______
Pillar #9: Governance

Give yourself 1 point for every question you can answer with a “yes”

› Do you have clear roles and responsibilities aligned to levels of access in the cloud?

› Do you have a tagging strategy defined and enforced for public cloud resources?

› Do you have the ability to report on all resources deployed across your public cloud environments?

› Do you have any data residency requirements based on industry compliance and/or governmental restrictions?

POINT TOTAL _______
Pillar #10: Monitoring & Operations

Give yourself 1 point for every question you can answer with a “yes”

› Do you have well documented operational processes and runbooks for existing environments? Have your operations processes and run books been updated for any public cloud platforms?

› Have your existing SLAs / OLAs been revised to account for the speed and automation public cloud provides?

› What tools are used for monitoring and performance management? Have your performance and operational health dashboards been updated to include public cloud-based infrastructure and applications?

POINT TOTAL ______
Pillar #11: Security

Give yourself 1 point for every question you can answer with a “yes”

- Are you confident in your ability to meet regulatory (HITRUST, PCI, SOC, ITAR, etc) requirements for your Cloud based applications?

- Have your security policies been updated to accommodate use of public cloud? Is your CISO signed off on or supportive of public cloud?

- Do you have a standard approach in place for key and secrets management, including least privilege access, just-in-time privilege management, and key rotation policies?

- Have you determined how to leverage the encryption in transit and encryption at rest capabilities of your public cloud platforms?

POINT TOTAL _______
Pillar #12: Cost Controls

Give yourself 1 point for every question you can answer with a “yes”

- Do you have a plan to allocate cloud costs? Will it be through centralized billing or chargeback / showback to application teams? What is your current practice for on-prem?

- Are you leveraging cloud provider cost savings options (i.e. Savings Plans, Reserved Instances)?

- Do you have operational features in place to identify overprovisioned or unused cloud resources?

- Are you utilizing the flexibility of public cloud to achieve cost efficiencies? Examples include stopping unneeded resources when not needed and designing workloads for automatic scaling.

- Have you performed a licensing assessment for 3rd party products that drive significant spend and determined if there are public cloud BYOL benefits?

POINT TOTAL _______
How Did You Score on Your Readiness Assessment?

- Low Maturity: 0
- Moderate Maturity: 25
- High Maturity: 50
AHEAD Can Help

AHEAD has the foundational playbook to build and operate your cloud – tailored to your specific level of Maturity.

From running, to building, to innovating, AHEAD delivers on any cloud, any platform, and any application stack.
AHEAD Enterprise Cloud Services Portfolio

**Assess**

**Analysis & Planning**
Assess the overall cloud strategy and complete deeper analysis on key areas to define a go forward strategy

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**Services Include:**
- Cloud Strategy
- Analytical Maturity Assessment
- Tactical Healthchecks

**Transform**

**Cloud Platform & Automation**
Run your Cloud Platforms effectively by embracing a Cloud Operating Model, Infrastructure as Code, and DevOps Principles

**App Modernization**
Modernize legacy systems into Cloud Native Architectures

**Data & AI**
Leverage cloud-scale data management solutions to foster analytical growth. Uncover unknown patterns in data to build predictive and prescriptive models

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**Services Include:**
- Cloud Operating Model
- Automation & Orchestration
- DevOps
- Architecture Planning
- Code Refactoring
- CI/CD Automation
- Data Architecture and Deployment
- Data Exploration and Model Development

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**Operate**

**Platform Support**
Proactive Optimization and Reactive Engineering to help you operate your cloud according to best practices and industry leading SLAs

**Services Include:**
- Managed Services
- CoPilot
- Enterprise Skills Initiative
- OCM

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**Migration & Modernization Services**
Enterprise Cloud Transformation Framework

**Application Modernization & Migration**
Discover and rationalize application portfolio. Determine modernization and migration approach.

- Application Portfolio Analysis
- Modernization and Migration Services

**Enterprise Cloud Operating Model & Framework**
Ensure cloud success both on-premises and in the public cloud by embracing a new operating model to incorporate Public Cloud providers.

- AWS/Azure/GCP Operating Model
- Enterprise Cloud Reference Architecture

**Team Transformation**
Define what CCOE and DevOps transformation means to your organization.

- CCOE Examples
- Enterprise Skills Initiative
- DevOps Transformation

**Automation**
Relentless Automation is critical to the success in an Enterprise Cloud model. Embrace a modern automation framework that accounts for the various personas who request services.

- Modern Automation Architecture
- Automation Hub
- Services Onboarding
- DevOps Dojo
AHEAD Cloud Qualifications

- VMware Cloud on AWS Beta/Launch Partner
- CoPilot for AWS and Azure
- Public Cloud Migration Experience with financial and competitive expertise
- Public Cloud Workshops
- Public Cloud Architecture and Deployment
- 70+ Specialists and 200+ Certifications

Premier Consulting Partner

Migration Competency
DevOps Competency
Digital Workplace Competency
Storage Competency
Solution Provider

Microsoft Partner
Gold Application Development
Gold Cloud Platform
Gold Data Analytics
Gold Data Platform
Gold Datacenter

Microsoft Cloud Solution Provider
Google Cloud Partner
You’re Ready For The Next Step

Now that you understand your organization’s readiness, AHEAD can ensure the optimal efficiency and cost-effectiveness throughout your entire migration process. Let’s get started.

Learn more at www.ahead.com

Learn. Grow. Achieve
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