

AHEAD

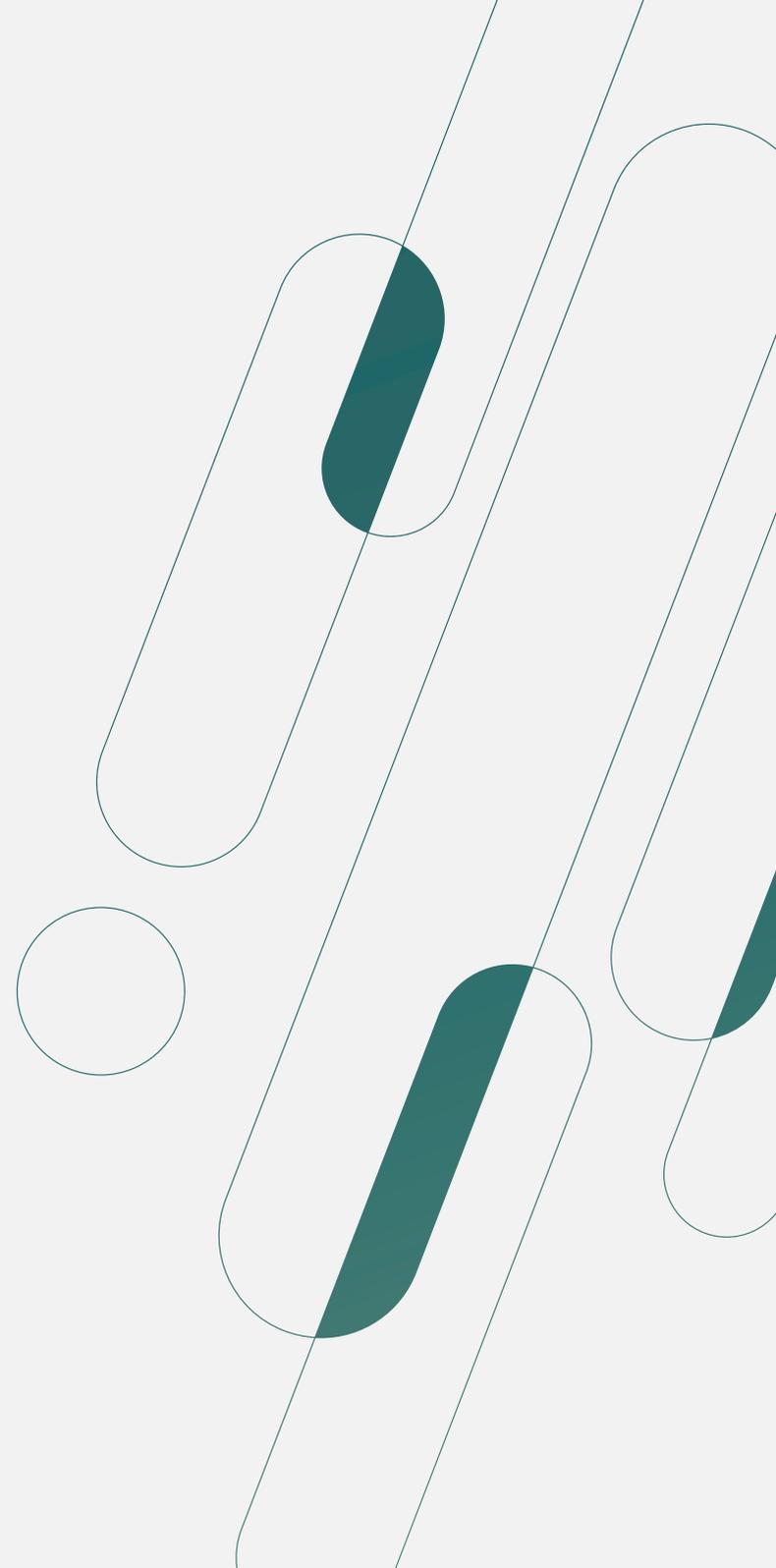
Becoming Cloud-Native:

A Guide to Modern
Cloud Transformation



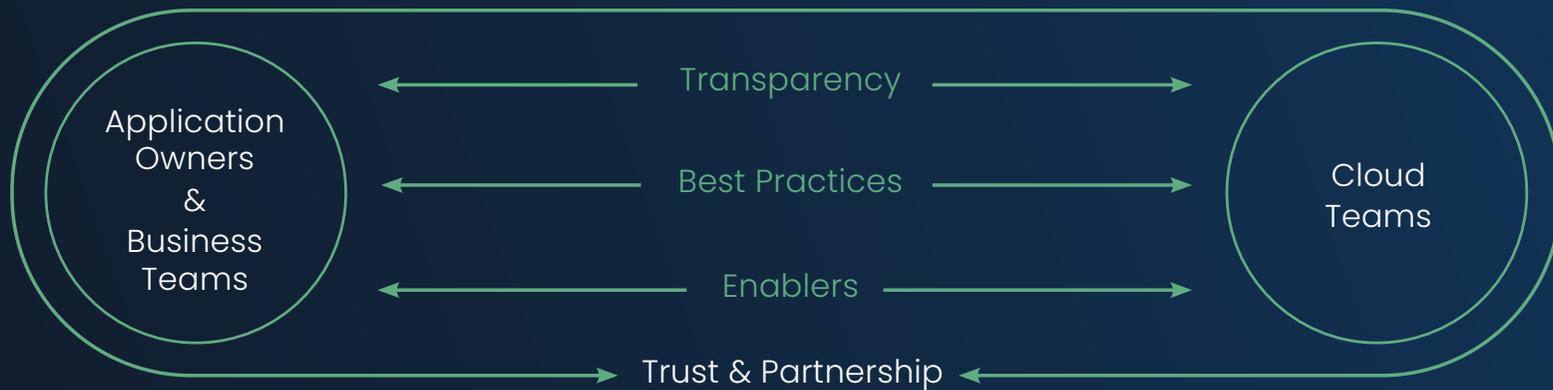
Enterprises are under immense pressure to transform digitally, and today's pace of business leaves them with no time to waste. While most organizations understand that speed is vital to any successful transformation, many are left wondering where to start. From improving customer experiences and making better use of data to delivering applications faster and hardening security, enterprises have their work cut out for them. With these challenges at the top of many executives' priority lists, organizations are turning to cloud-native strategies and platforms as the top drivers in meeting the demands of the modern business world.

Below, we'll explore approaches to enterprise cloud enablement, the intricacies along the path to cloud maturity, and a few best practices for the adoption and migration of these critical cloud-native platforms and applications.



Cloud Enablement

One of the keys to developing a sound cloud enablement strategy is ensuring that there is a degree of partnership between application owners and cloud teams. Put simply, these teams need to have shared responsibilities when it comes to decision making. Organizations that do this successfully emphasize the need for transparency, develop and define best practices in non-siloed environments, and create flexibility for teams of individuals to deploy technical enablers that will pave the way for better business outcomes.



Transparency

- Portfolio Understanding & Rationalization
- Usage / Costs
- Procurement Procedures
- Corporate Expectations & Policies
- Requirements, Architectures, & Deployment Logistics

Best Practices

- Design Patterns & Building Blocks
- Enterprise-approved Deployment Practices
- Enterprise Quick Start Templates
- How To / Training / Advisory / Knowledge
- Security and Compliance Alignment & Standards

Enablers

- Shared Services (Networking, Connectivity, Identity, Security, Auditing, Operations & Management, Automations, etc.)
- Enterprise Platform Integrations
- Governance & Guardrails
- Financial Operations
- AppDev Enablement & Tooling

Cloud Maturity

Upon building trust and partnership between cloud teams and application owners, organizations will find themselves somewhere along the cloud maturity curve pictured below. Where a particular organization falls on this curve will depend on a number of factors, and it's important to understand that there is not always one correct answer to where an enterprise should be on this maturity scale.

Some organizations may be doing everything in their power to further their transformation to cloud-native, but still remain within stages one and two. Others may be ready to begin scaling and optimizing once they've reached a certain point in their journey. The most important thing to remember here is that the transformation itself happens along this maturity curve, and organizations must determine for themselves where (and how) they want to operate.



Cloud Maturity



The Solution Journey:

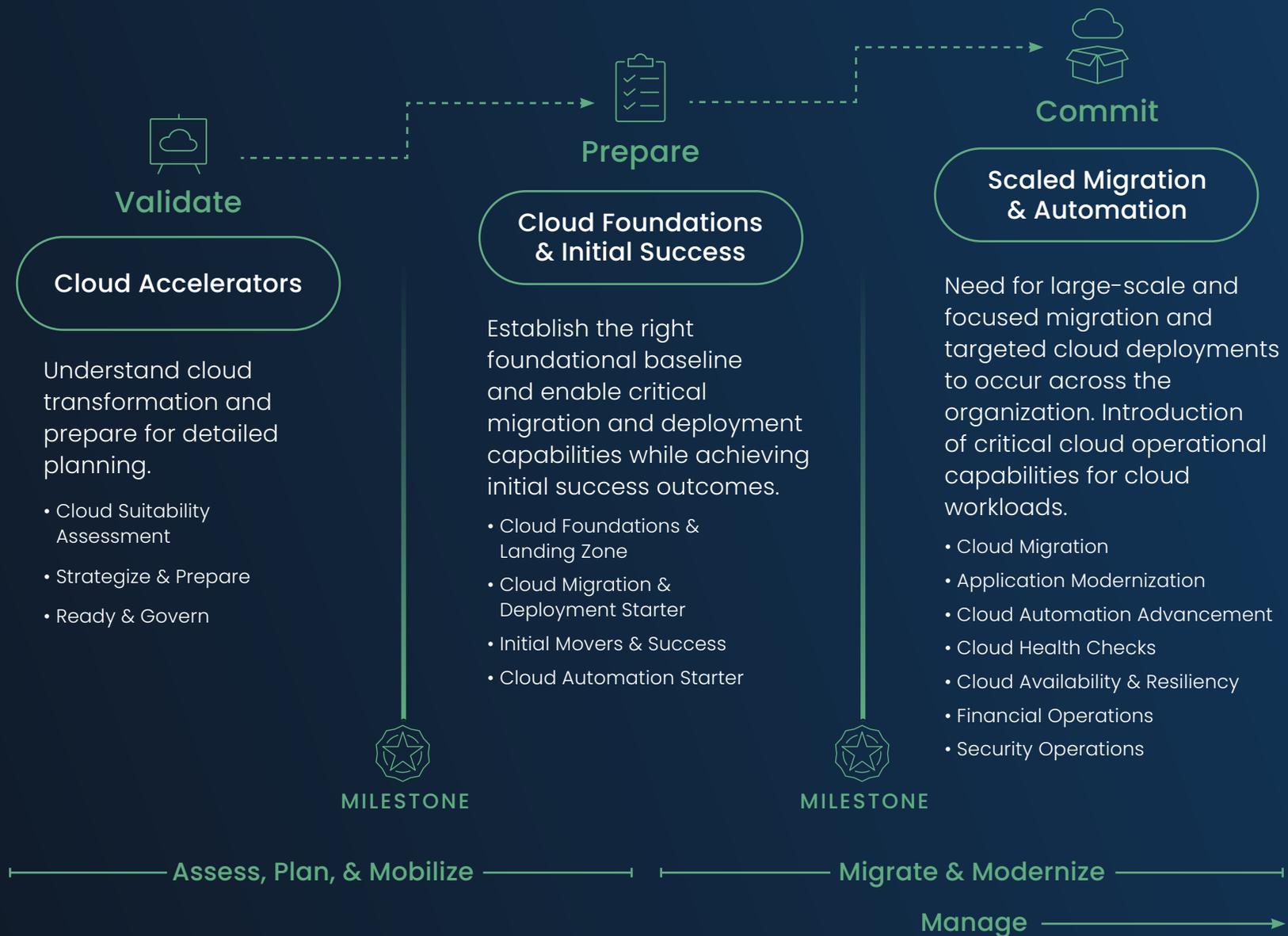
A Typical Approach for New Cloud Customers

As organizations move along the maturity curve, they will need to focus on the specific activities and outcomes that need to be achieved to make progress. The question then becomes: how do we move from the 'Assess, Plan, and Mobilize' phase toward a state where the focus can be shifted to 'Migration and Modernization?'

The 'Validate' phase is centered around developing a true understanding of the cloud transformation. What are we trying to deliver? What are the defined outcomes we hope to achieve? These questions—as well as much of the education and upskilling required—should be addressed in this early phase to pave the way and usher in the next step: preparation.

The 'Prepare' phase is key—and organizations should try to get to this stage as quickly as possible to give their teams an opportunity to learn by doing. Once the enterprise has achieved a foundational baseline and started to enable many of their critical cloud functions, they will find an easier path to maturity. **By focusing on initial successes and enabling starting points for automation, deployment and delivery will begin to feel much more within reach.**

Lastly, once organizations have a portfolio understanding, foundations in place, and success stories to use as a benchmark, they can begin to scale and commit to larger activities. This is where functions that were built within the preparation phase can be enhanced, leading to migrations at scale as well as opportunities for modernization.



10 Considerations for Cloud Adoption & Migration

Finally, as the enterprise moves along its transformation journey to cloud-native, there are some considerations that must be top of mind to ensure that they have covered all of the bases and positioned themselves for success:

1. Define, communicate, and **measure business motivation and outcomes** using data
2. Establish technical **capability maturity** expectations
3. Treat **security** as a top challenge and focus
4. Understand the differences between **migration and modernization** and allocate talent and resources accordingly
5. Identify the risks, rewards, and complexities associated with **hybrid and multi-cloud**
6. Establish the appropriate **operational practices** – especially financial and governance functions
7. Expect that the pace of adoption and migration **will continue to increase**
8. Understand **partner alignment**
9. Do not neglect innovation and disruption – **embrace creativity**
10. Establish the appropriate **team, skills, and focus** to achieve success



2022 AHEAD SPRING summit

For a more in-depth look at the principles and approaches necessary to enable a successful transformation toward cloud-native, check out the [on-demand sessions](#) from AHEAD's 2022 Spring Summit.

National Hubs

ATLANTA

1117 Perimeter Center
W406
Atlanta, GA 30338

CHICAGO

401 Michigan Ave.
#3400
Chicago, IL 60611

SAN FRANCISCO

2000 Crow Canyon Place
Suite 250
San Ramon, CA 94583