



HOW CLOUD HELPS DELIVER BUSINESS TRANSFORMATION

5 Steps to Using Cloud IT to Transform Your Business

Your Cloud IT Strategy

5 Steps Using Cloud IT to Transform Your Business

A well thought out cloud IT strategy is not just about replacing physical servers with cloud servers or replacing software and licensing with SaaS...

...A cloud IT strategy is about using the opportunity of cloud IT to support and drive business transformation that helps your business to grow faster than your competitors.

Consider these **5 steps** and how you can apply them to your organization.



5 STEPS TO USING CLOUD IT TO TRANSFORM YOUR BUSINESS

1 Say no to Non-core Activities

Problem

It is common that many of your no-core activities take up a disproportionate amount of your time to manage. It's also true that as solutions evolve, the struggle to keep your expert knowledge up to speed, across all your systems, becomes more difficult.

Solution

Consider what workloads can be reassigned to a different delivery model. Basic infrastructure services such as messaging, desktop backup and security can be easy wins for your business. Cloud servers, backup and disaster recovery, will take some more planning and testing.

As these workloads are moved, your people will get used to internet delivered services and enjoy the freedom that this can create in terms of devices used and mobile working. Your time can also be spent on more strategic activities adding more value to your business.



2 Enable Your Managers

Problem

Your business units are now expecting projects to be delivered faster as the organization requires greater agility and your IT consumers are demanding more because of their advanced use of personal IT. Applications or Apps are moving to the center of the organization by stealth or design. But enabling IT functionality without thought and controls rarely works and can lead to poor utilization at one end, or maverick behavior and data leaks at the other.

Your business and team managers are the keys to finding the right balance of control and freedom to allow for innovation but stop data leakage.

Solution

Take these 3 steps to begin to empower your managers:

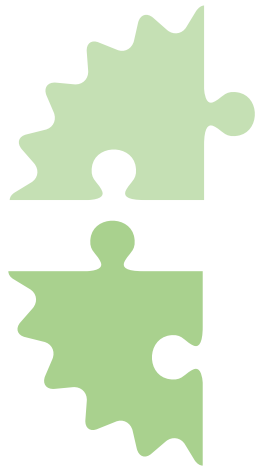
1. Communicate the issues and risks clearly
2. Include your managers in your IT processes, passing off accountability where possible
3. Find toolsets that pass on the day to day accountability to your managers

3 Create the Right App Culture

Problem

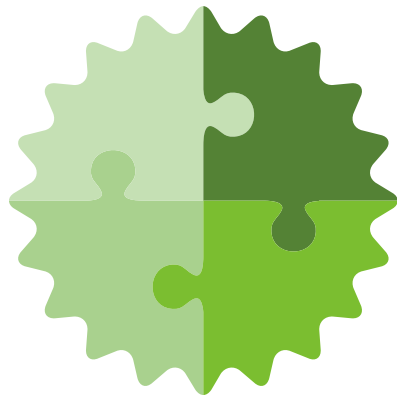
SaaS applications in your business have created a new paradigm where even the most diligent of employees can quickly create a data leakage event by using an app or application that posts information or data without them even realizing. The use of unauthorized applications is growing fast and will keep growing unless the issue is addressed. What is your business style when it comes to employee behaviors? Do you encourage people to use their personal boundaries, using your cultural values, to help people make the right decisions? Or do you set the limits with guidance through policies and employment contracts?

Solution



Find a way for people to try new solutions and feedback their findings

Use induction and on-going training to highlight the business risks



Create HR policies that set the boundaries for data use in Apps

Avoid the local lock down – users will find a way around the restrictions, it's better to have them onside



4 Make Your CFO Happy



Problem

Cloud is having a profound effect on the way the CFO views technology spending, with more transparent cost structures, moving from **CAPEX** to OPEX and, being able to have a better understanding of the return-on-investment. This visibility now means that the CFO will have a much stronger opinion on budget requests and allocation than before. Your business case for investment will need to be even more robust.

Solution

- Think about IT investments regarding cash-flow as well as total cost of ownership
- Go for solutions where you pay for what you use and can grow and shrink as required
- Try to use tools that allow you to allocate costs to departments for greater IT spend accountability
- Use and share out-of-the box analytics and business intelligence

The closer relationship between you and CFO can only bring benefits to the business, and by providing much clearer real-time cost benefits for the deployed technology, you will open up new conversations with your CFO around how your technology strategy will be supporting growth and other organizational objectives.

5 Manageability

Problem

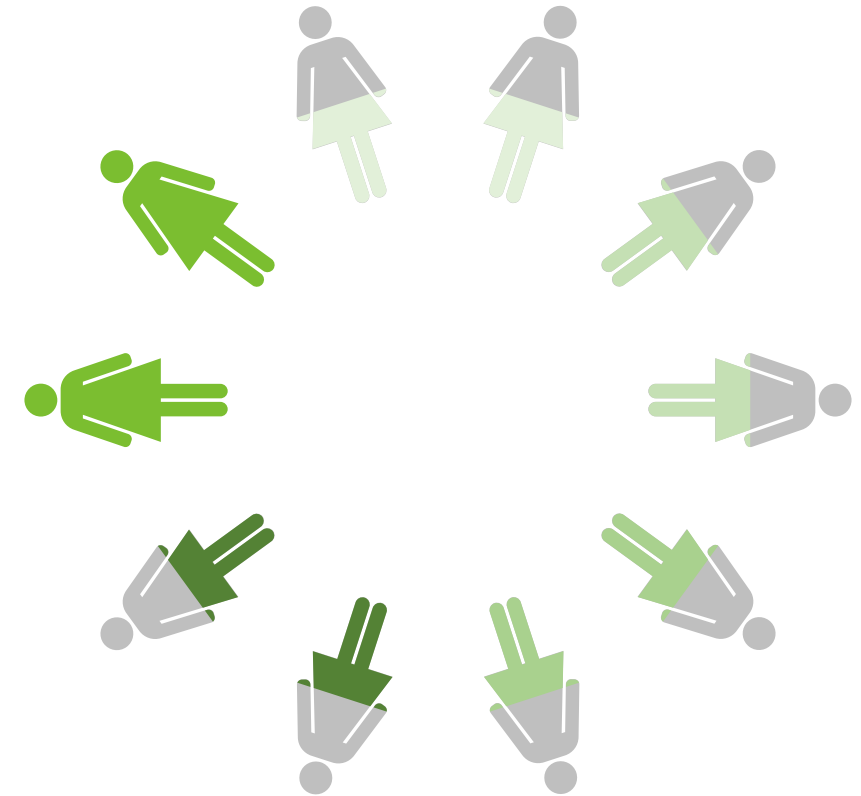
Gaining and retaining control when you are using multiple cloud services is going to be a problem. Once you have created the right culture and behavior around cloud apps, one of the best ways to start this process of gaining control is to find out what people are using and need.

Solution

We would recommend using a cloud aggregation platform to manage users and services, but of course, we would, that's what we do. In the meantime create a simple survey for users and managers. Ask questions like:

- What functionality is required?
- What technology or the lack of, is wasting their valuable time?
- What are IT they paying for through their expenses?
- What can they do on their devices that will save them time?

Questions like this will give you an overview of what is required, and you can then support these needs ensuring security and data security is maintained.



Cloud Aggregation



Problem

You want to empower your users, give control to your managers but keep administrative control over your cloud IT. It should be your organization who decides what functionalities will be made available and push them to your users. It will be you, as the cloud administrator, and your team managers who want to be able to see who is using these recommended tools and be able to help with training if they are underutilized. You need to centrally managed costs.

Solution

This solution to meet these needs is currently referred to as Cloud Aggregation. Cloud Aggregation provides the management platform, deployment tools and the possibilities of integration that will make sense of the myriad of cloud services and solutions available today and tomorrow. By addressing the needs of you the administrator, the team manager and user the process of IT and business transformation can be faster, cheaper and easily managed.