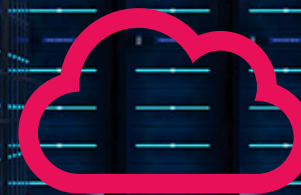


Roadmap

Devising an Effective Cloud Strategy

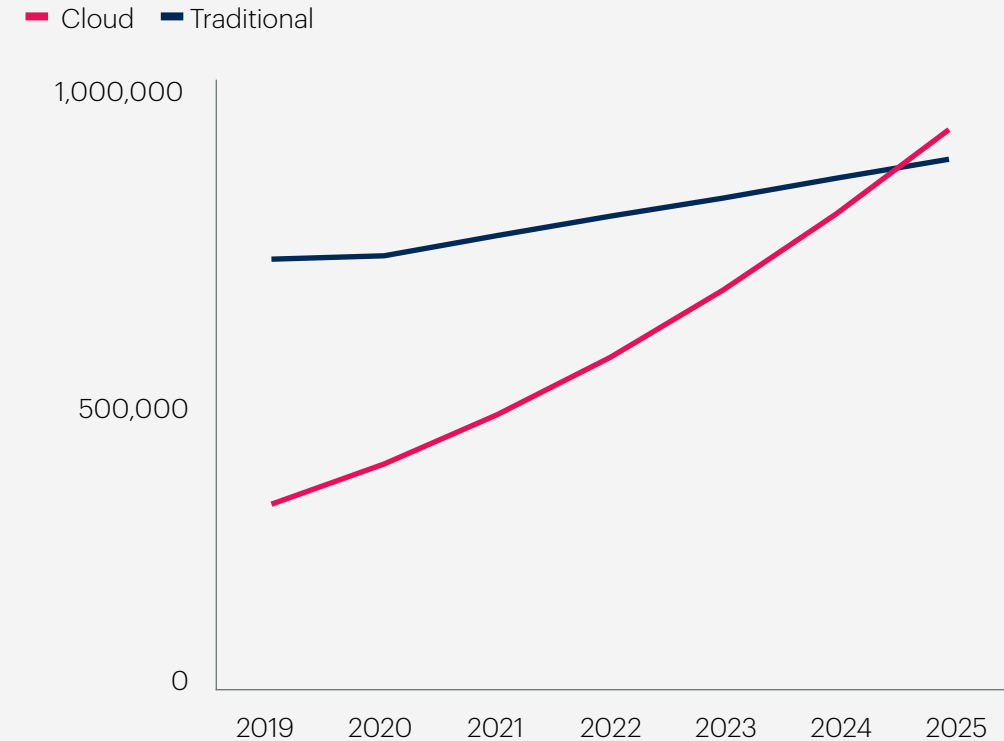
Create a strategy that maximizes the benefits of cloud computing for your organization



What is the scope and need to formulate a solid cloud strategy?

Almost every organization uses cloud computing, but many still don't have a cloud strategy or even an implementation plan. Organizations won't be able to take advantage of using cloud services without a sound cloud strategy. A cloud strategy explores and defines the role that cloud computing should play in the organization. Many of the top questions in cloud computing revolve around cloud strategy. And these questions are becoming more urgent. They range from "What is cloud strategy and why do I need one?" to "How do we build a comprehensive cloud strategy?" Such questions lead to others about principles and prioritization. A good cloud strategy document should be concise, consisting of 10 to 20 pages. It should be a living document that is updated regularly. It should be driven by business strategy and provide guidance to those who will implement it.

Cloud Shift as Organizations Move From Traditional On-Premises IT to Cloud Services



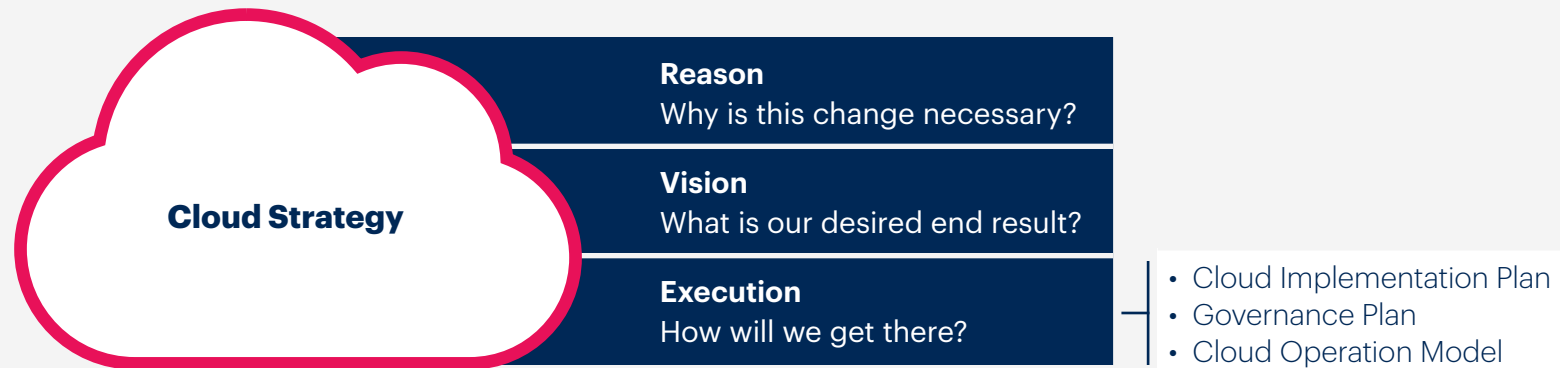
Source: Gartner, How Cloud Adoption Will Increase Opex Budgets
The cloud shift accelerates with a 17% compound annual growth rate (CAGR) to 2025.

How to gain more from the cloud with a cloud strategy

Organizations with a cloud strategy are in a better position to achieve greater outcomes from cloud computing than those without one. They have more coherent approaches to cloud usage. They anticipate both the benefits and potential downsides of its use, attempting to exploit the benefits while minimizing the downsides. As an IT leader, one cannot be fully prepared to meet their organization's needs if they don't have a common cloud strategy to draw on and consult for priorities, along with colleagues in other subdisciplines of IT.

Although it's best to craft a cloud strategy before adopting cloud computing, that's rare. Most organizations devise their cloud strategy after they have gained some experience with the cloud. But the sooner an enterprise establishes a cloud strategy, the more issues they will avoid. It's never too late to develop one. Get started today!

Create Understanding About Your Cloud Strategy



Source: Gartner

Some of the top questions about a cloud strategy initiative are:

- 1** How should I reorganize my team and develop the skills to support the cloud?
- 2** Should I manage cloud resources myself or use a managed service provider?
- 3** What KPIs do I need to measure cloud success?

What are the key stages?

This roadmap shows the sequence of objectives and desired outcomes and is useful for aligning all stakeholders. It is distilled from interactions with clients who have successfully implemented cloud strategy initiatives. A few key milestones and associated Gartner resources are highlighted below, but our full roadmap includes complete details of all milestones and resources for each stage of the initiative.





Align objectives

Cloud migration value proposition defined (for both business and IT)

Actions to take

Build understanding around different use cases of cloud adoption across business practices.

Define formal cloud strategy aligned to organizational and IT strategic goals.

Define project scope by selecting workloads with greatest potential gain from cloud deployment.

+ more

Sample of associated Gartner resources

- **Research:**
 - Build an Environmental Cloud Sustainability Strategy
 - How to Deploy a Cloud Center of Excellence
 - IT Score for CIOs
 - Infographic: Cloud Strategy Cookbook
- **Expert inquiry:** Review and assess the current state of the cloud strategy.
- **Phone consultation:** Define the mission, vision, goals and objectives of the program with stakeholders.
- **Conference:** [Gartner IT Infrastructure, Operations & Cloud Strategies Conference](#)



Develop action plan

Effective vendor selection and successful contract negotiation

Actions to take

Develop I&O cloud competencies across the enterprise and workshops to give stakeholders deeper understanding of public and private cloud.

+ more

Choose from different cloud layers, and assess and evaluate different service providers best suited for the organization, e.g., AWS, Google, Microsoft.

Identify viable investments in networking, security and identity architectures, and tools to enable a smooth transition to cloud.

Sample of associated Gartner resources

- **Research:**
 - Gartner Magic Quadrant™ for Cloud Infrastructure and Platform Services
 - Ignition Guide to Creating a Cloud Communication Strategy for Senior Executives
 - The Future of Cloud in 2025: From Technology to Innovation
- **Expert inquiry:** Deliver business value by evaluating hosting and cloud migration decisions based on the business instead of technical criteria.
- **Phone consultation:** Craft a concise point of view on cloud and its role in your organization.
- **Conference:** [Gartner IT Infrastructure, Operations & Cloud Strategies Conference](#)



Prepare for execution

Successful deployment and optimized workload placement

Actions to take

Hire and invest in developing cloud skills in the enterprise.

Identify and segregate workloads for migration, e.g., identify workloads to be migrated first, sequence for those grouped.

Foster productive collaboration across enterprise units to contribute to successful deployment.

+ more

Sample of associated Gartner resources

- **Research:**
 - Cloud Cost Scenario Planning Tool
 - Top Four Trends Shaping the Future of Public Cloud
 - Workload Placement in Hybrid IT — Making Great Decisions About What, Where, When and Why
 - Workload Placement in Multicloud IaaS+PaaS Environments
- **Expert inquiry:** Gain critical insights into hybrid cloud use cases and the adoption profile of the technologies underlying hybrid cloud implementation.
- **Phone consultation:** Leverage a scenario planning toolkit to adapt when moving from legacy environments to cloud-based architectures.
- **Conference:** [Gartner IT Infrastructure, Operations & Cloud Strategies Conference](#)



Establish governance and mitigate risk

Workflow disruptions minimized and robust governance processes established

Actions to take

Establish ownership, responsibility and risk acceptance by outlining expectations for form, significance and control of cloud usage.

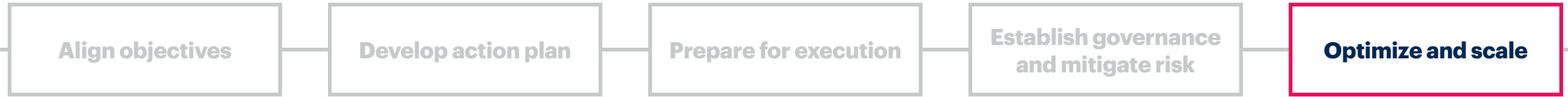
Prioritize sensitive data discovery, monitoring, analytics and protection as the most critical use case for cloud access security broker (CASB) deployments.

Establish security control plane using third-party tools to achieve better visibility, data security, threat protection and compliance.

+ more

Sample of associated Gartner resources

- **Research:**
 - Ignition Guide to Creating a Migration Plan for Public Cloud
 - Critical Capabilities for Cloud Infrastructure and Platform Services
 - The Risk-Enabled Enterprise: ERM’s Role in Risk-Informed Decision Making
- **Expert inquiry:** Discuss the technical capabilities required for the implementation.
- **Phone consultation:** Develop a cloud migration strategy based on the attributes of applications and the business outcomes they support.
- **Conference:** [Gartner IT Infrastructure, Operations & Cloud Strategies Conference](#)



Optimize and scale

Cloud footprint optimization and evolution

Actions to take

Prioritize investments needed to advance existing cloud strategies and implementation.

Create shared objectives for cross-functional teams; emphasize flexibility and customer centricity over operational performance and process adherence.

Use analytics to drive insights and optimize cloud cost management.

+ more

Sample of associated Gartner resources

- **Research:**
 - How to Deploy a Cloud Center of Excellence
 - Cloud Decisions Tools: Interactive Platform for Cloud Provider Selection and Application Placement
 - The Foundational Principles of Successful Public Cloud Adoption at Scale
 - Ignition Guide to Creating a Migration Plan to Public Cloud
- **Expert inquiry:** Engage and build a strategy to communicate the business outcome to the stakeholders.
- **Phone consultation:** Assess the developments to date; prioritize and plan ahead.
- **Conference:** [Gartner IT Infrastructure, Operations & Cloud Strategies Conference](#)

Who needs to be involved?

The most successful companies establish cross-functional teams for their modernization initiatives. We have outlined the recommended functions to involve and their roles to ensure success in achieving milestones.



Client success story:

Expanding education through digital migration

Mission-critical priority

The client needed to prioritize spending federal funding while also identifying long-term cost savings to fully implement its technology roadmap, realize its digital initiatives and improve satisfaction scores. The initiatives encompassed security and optimizing Oracle-managed services while maintaining the budget.



How Gartner helped

After an initial tech stack review, Gartner experts guided an engagement strategy with the IT leaders to provide technology insight, toolkits and strategic support using the Gartner Executive Programs subscription. Through multiple consultations, Gartner developed a cloud migration roadmap that is cost-effective, security-focused and timely.



Mission accomplished

With the support of Gartner:

- Contracts were reviewed to find long-term cost savings by prioritizing security first in the roadmap and avoid a hasty cloud migration.
- Initiatives were discussed during 16 expert calls:
 - These calls shortened execution time from making the advised pivot and communication to stakeholders using Gartner proprietary tools and data.
- Monthly call with client stakeholders reviewed progress and thought leadership.
- Campus access integration was offered to faculty and active students for the latest Gartner IT research and insights, which improved the user experience (UX) while continuing the overall digitalization journey.

Actionable, objective insight

Explore these additional complimentary resources and tools on cloud strategy for I&O and IT leaders:

Research

[2022 Planning Guide for Cloud and Edge Computing](#)

Build a scalable, resilient and secure cloud architecture to respond to rapidly shifting economic conditions.

Webinar

[The Gartner Cloud Strategy Cookbook 2022](#)

Build your cloud strategy by planning and assembling ingredients as you would for a fine meal.

Research

[Advanced Cloud Computing Technology](#)

Learn insights, advice and tools to help I&O and IT leaders address their top challenges with cloud computing and security.

Article

[6 Steps for Planning a Cloud Strategy](#)

Drive cloud and edge computing initiatives with a cloud strategy that enables scalable, resilient and secure architecture.

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[2021-2023 Emerging Technology Roadmap](#)

[The IT Roadmap for Cloud Migration](#)

[Migrating D&A Architectures to the Cloud: Roadmap](#)

[The IT Roadmap for Cybersecurity](#)

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