Cloud Readiness Consulting Services
Globalisation and economic pressures are changing the business landscape, increasing the pressure to expedite time-to-market with new products and services, while keeping costs down. In addition, for many businesses, constant technology change has resulted in ad hoc infrastructure build-outs, creating complexity and complicating the management and support of IT infrastructure.
Organisations are increasingly looking to cloud computing to improve competitiveness, recognising the benefits of improved business agility, simplified businesses processes and reduced time-to-market. Cloud-based services provide on-demand, self-service access to servers, applications and software development platforms.

While the benefits of cloud computing are significant, so is the complexity of planning, building and managing a cloud environment. Many enterprises and service providers have been slow to adopt cloud computing due to concerns about security, compliance, integration, performance, capital expense requirements, and deployment and operational risks – and how to address them.

At the same time, the number of cloud service providers, as well as the number and types of offerings available, also continues to grow. While this has created a wealth of opportunity for businesses looking to leverage the cloud, it’s also created confusion as to the optimal way to move forward.

Common questions and challenges facing IT leaders include:

- I’m under executive pressure to execute on a cloud strategy: any development and implementation delays will impact time-to-market for new services and compromise our competitive edge.
- How do I meet the business’ need for cloud services with a flat or shrinking budget?
- I’m finding it difficult to define and prioritise which areas of my infrastructure to move to the cloud.
- Without a long-term cloud strategy, I’m concerned that short-term tactics might lead to costly re-architecture and re-integration requirements.
- I’m worried that unless we move ahead with our cloud strategy swiftly, internal customers will become frustrated and resort to non IT approved, non-secure cloud services.
- I’m unsure as to which applications to move to the cloud and where the most obvious opportunities lie. Moving the wrong applications to the cloud could result in poor performance or potential security risks.
- My existing processes and procedures aren’t currently aligned to cloud – which prevents me from capitalising on the agility this model offers.
- My internal IT team is stretched to the limit; developing our cloud strategy is causing delays on other important projects. I’m also not sure my team has the skills and capacity to evaluate application readiness for the cloud and to plan and execute migrations.

While the benefits of cloud computing are significant, so is the complexity of planning, building and managing a cloud environment.
Dimension Data’s Cloud Readiness Consulting Services

By gaining a thorough understanding of your organisation’s readiness for a move to the cloud, you’ll better understand, identify and address any gaps or areas of concern and develop an actionable cloud roadmap for the future.

Dimension Data’s Cloud Readiness Consulting Services comprise a suite of structured engagements which allows you to:

• Refine your vision for the cloud;
• Qualify your cloud-related needs and requirements; and
• Identify a high-level roadmap and preliminary set of actions with which to move forward.

Through our Cloud Readiness Consulting Services, we work with you to review your operations across four critical dimensions of cloud computing – business alignment, organisation, infrastructure and applications. We enable you to pinpoint any gaps that exist between the current ‘as is’ state and the desired ‘to be’ state; and set out a preliminary cloud roadmap that identifies key next steps, based on your business’ specific requirements.

Our approach

Our Cloud Readiness Consulting Services comprise three elements:

• An online Cloud Self-Assessment;
• A Cloud Readiness Workshop that assists you in shaping your organisation’s vision for cloud, and a prioritising a set of actions; and
• A Cloud Readiness Assessment: a detailed consulting engagement of approximately two weeks, aimed at moving you forward on the path of cloud enablement.

Each element may be delivered as a stand-alone service.
Cloud Self-Assessment
This short, online assessment comprises a series of multiple-choice questions which generate a high-level cloud readiness score for your organisation.

By gaining a thorough understanding of your organisation’s readiness for a move to the cloud, you’ll better understand, identify and address any gaps or areas of concern and develop an actionable cloud roadmap for the future.

Cloud Readiness Workshop
The goals of the Cloud Readiness Workshop are to:
- Evaluate your organisation’s level of cloud readiness across four dimensions, i.e. business alignment, organisation, infrastructure, and applications – and associated attributes;
- Identify gaps in your current state and desired state with respect to cloud readiness, provide recommendations and best practices to close these gaps and prepare you to move application workloads to the cloud;
- Identify applications that are the best initial candidates for the cloud, develop a high-level, phased plan for all targeted cloud migration candidate applications; and
- Develop a high-level, 12-24 month cloud roadmap to close any cloud readiness gaps and plan for the migration of initial workloads.

The workshop takes approximately six hours and should be attended by key senior-level individuals who are responsible for the development and implementation of your business’ cloud strategy.

The diagram below depicts the various dimensions and attributes that will be assessed during the workshop:

The deliverables of the workshop include an executive presentation and written report.

Fig 1: Dimension Data Cloud Readiness State Model
Why Dimension Data?
Mapping a migration path and architectural design for cloud requires an in-depth understanding of an organisation’s entire IT infrastructure, architecture and relative interdependencies and risks. Dimension Data offers a unique blend of capabilities, assets and experience that sets us apart from other cloud service providers. Our heritage in systems integration, mature managed services skills and technical expertise in areas such as networking, data centre solutions, security solutions, Microsoft solutions, and IT services positions us well to help clients determine the correct cloud strategy, migrate to the cloud and manage their cloud infrastructure on an ongoing basis.

Our Cloud Readiness Consulting Services teams are experienced in both cloud and on-premises enterprise solutions. This enables us to help your business identify, mitigate and manage the risks associated with the transition to a cloud environment. Members of our consulting teams have on average 10 years of IT infrastructure and service management consulting experience. We conform to best practice standards for software asset management including ISO/IEC 19770 and ISO/IEC 20000.

A move to a cloud environment can be potentially disruptive and complex, but it needn’t be that way for your business. With the insights delivered through our Cloud Readiness Consulting Services, you'll be in a strong position to move ahead with your cloud journey in a structured and coherent manner. To set up an appointment, please contact your nearest Dimension Data office.

Cloud Readiness Assessment
The Cloud Readiness Assessment involves a more comprehensive review of your organisation across the various areas assessed in the Cloud Readiness Workshop. The assessment is carried out over a period of approximately two weeks and focuses on evolving your business to a point where you’re ready to move a significant portion of your IT environment to the cloud. It involves a thorough review of your organisation, operations and technology. During the assessment, our team will work with you to:

- Examine your current business and IT strategy;
- Undertake a detailed financial analysis using our cloud total cost of ownership tool and develop an initial business case support your journey to the cloud;
- Develop a detailed application migration roadmap.

Cloud Readiness Assessment
The Cloud Readiness Assessment involves a more comprehensive review of your organisation across the various areas assessed in the Cloud Readiness Workshop. The assessment is carried out over a period of approximately two weeks and focuses on evolving your business to a point where you’re ready to move a significant portion of your IT environment to the cloud. It involves a thorough review of your organisation, operations and technology. During the assessment, our team will work with you to:

- Examine your current business and IT strategy;
- Undertake a detailed financial analysis using our cloud total cost of ownership tool and develop an initial business case support your journey to the cloud;
- Develop a detailed application migration roadmap.

Why Dimension Data?
Mapping a migration path and architectural design for cloud requires an in-depth understanding of an organisation’s entire IT infrastructure, architecture and relative interdependencies and risks. Dimension Data offers a unique blend of capabilities, assets and experience that sets us apart from other cloud service providers. Our heritage in systems integration, mature managed services skills and technical expertise in areas such as networking, data centre solutions, security solutions, Microsoft solutions, and IT services positions us well to help clients determine the correct cloud strategy, migrate to the cloud and manage their cloud infrastructure on an ongoing basis.

Our Cloud Readiness Consulting Services teams are experienced in both cloud and on-premises enterprise solutions. This enables us to help your business identify, mitigate and manage the risks associated with the transition to a cloud environment. Members of our consulting teams have on average 10 years of IT infrastructure and service management consulting experience. We conform to best practice standards for software asset management including ISO/IEC 19770 and ISO/IEC 20000.

A move to a cloud environment can be potentially disruptive and complex, but it needn’t be that way for your business. With the insights delivered through our Cloud Readiness Consulting Services, you’ll be in a strong position to move ahead with your cloud journey in a structured and coherent manner. To set up an appointment, please contact your nearest Dimension Data office.

Cloud Readiness Assessment
The Cloud Readiness Assessment involves a more comprehensive review of your organisation across the various areas assessed in the Cloud Readiness Workshop. The assessment is carried out over a period of approximately two weeks and focuses on evolving your business to a point where you’re ready to move a significant portion of your IT environment to the cloud. It involves a thorough review of your organisation, operations and technology. During the assessment, our team will work with you to:

- Examine your current business and IT strategy;
- Undertake a detailed financial analysis using our cloud total cost of ownership tool and develop an initial business case support your journey to the cloud;
- Develop a detailed application migration roadmap.

Why Dimension Data?
Mapping a migration path and architectural design for cloud requires an in-depth understanding of an organisation’s entire IT infrastructure, architecture and relative interdependencies and risks. Dimension Data offers a unique blend of capabilities, assets and experience that sets us apart from other cloud service providers. Our heritage in systems integration, mature managed services skills and technical expertise in areas such as networking, data centre solutions, security solutions, Microsoft solutions, and IT services positions us well to help clients determine the correct cloud strategy, migrate to the cloud and manage their cloud infrastructure on an ongoing basis.

Our Cloud Readiness Consulting Services teams are experienced in both cloud and on-premises enterprise solutions. This enables us to help your business identify, mitigate and manage the risks associated with the transition to a cloud environment. Members of our consulting teams have on average 10 years of IT infrastructure and service management consulting experience. We conform to best practice standards for software asset management including ISO/IEC 19770 and ISO/IEC 20000.

A move to a cloud environment can be potentially disruptive and complex, but it needn’t be that way for your business. With the insights delivered through our Cloud Readiness Consulting Services, you’ll be in a strong position to move ahead with your cloud journey in a structured and coherent manner. To set up an appointment, please contact your nearest Dimension Data office.
A move to a cloud environment can be potentially disruptive and complex, but it needn’t be that way for your business. With the insights delivered through our Cloud Readiness Consulting Services, you’ll be in a strong position to move ahead with your cloud journey in a structured and coherent manner. To set up an appointment, please contact your nearest Dimension Data office.