
CLOUD READY

Cloud Architecture



Born in the cloud or content with on-prem are the two biggest camps for today's organizations. The slow adoption to cloud technologies for most business has led many to conclude that a hybrid cloud is going to apply for most businesses across all sizes and markets. But just what does hybrid mean? How do you make your organization cloud ready, how long does it take, and how much does it cost? The reality is, cloud is going to continue to permeate the market as the benefits will continue to outweigh the complications. Additionally, when we begin to see the tipping point where cloud actually becomes less expensive and more secure, that's when the real

The best technology architecture is achieved when all components are enabled to work seamlessly together.

shift will occur. Our suggestion has been for awhile to not pay too much attention to what the “industry” is doing, unless you can find a direct parallel to your organization, your culture, your maturity in the market, and your competitive edge.

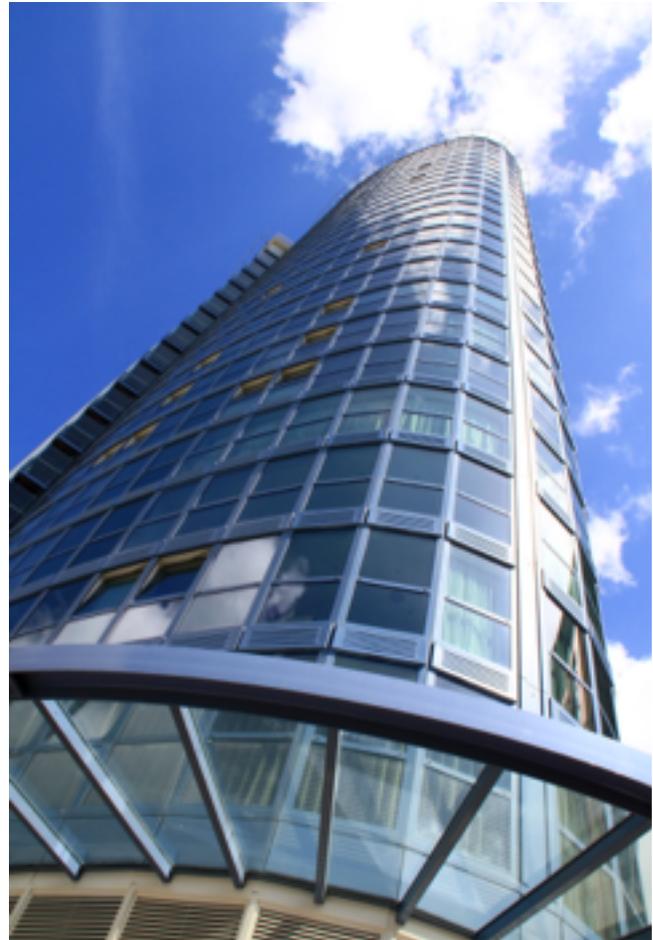
The second most important aspect is to not try and fit your entire technology footprint into a cloud technology, or even into cloud at all. Do not get hung up on the technology. Technology is just the means to the end, it is not the end itself. Just because something may academically make sense, doesn’t always equate to real business value as there are a myriad of political and organizational issues which are rarely, if ever, discussed in white papers touting the advantages of a particular architecture- cloud or otherwise.

Lastly, and most importantly remember it’s all about the applications, the use-cases, and your internal technology capabilities. Be sure to evaluate each application on the merits of moving to a cloud architecture. If you are not planning on moving an entire application stack to a single cloud provider, ensure the inter-application dependencies make sense in a multi-cloud or hybrid cloud deployment, and ensure there are real tangible benefits to moving in the first place. What may

have made perfect sense for moving your collaboration environment to a cloud platform, may not be feasible for your CRM, for example. Each application should be evaluated based on its unique use-case to determine if there are concrete advantages like increased time to value, enhanced productivity, increased efficiencies, lower TCO, or if there is an opportunity cost to not changing to a cloud-based platform.

“Technology is just the means to the end. It is not the end, itself.”

- ROBERT MUELLER



Design everything around the applications.: The architecture must work to support the applications, not the other way around.
