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Cloud Assessment
Overview

A SAMPLE ARTIFACT

Executive Summary

Companies regularly engage with Deft to perform an assessment of their current IT infrastructure and applications. The objectives for these assessments vary widely.

In most cases, we are asked to provide the company with detailed guidance in one of three areas:

- The migration of their existing IT infrastructure applications to the cloud;
- The optimization of existing cloud environments (VMware, AWS, Azure, etc.); or
- A plan for the transformation of existing applications and business processes to cloud native environments

These assessments are always performed with technical expertise and execution by Deft certified Cloud Architects and Engineers.

Today, many companies locally host their IT infrastructure and applications, utilize applications hosted in a third-party data center, use public clouds and augment all of this with Software as a Service (SaaS) platforms. While these models can serve a company well, changing business needs require an integrated, distributed, performant, and scalable architecture. Companies require a platform that is cost effective, utilizes state of the art technologies and, most importantly, provides a future-proof foundation for increasing agility, powering innovation, and supporting their growth plans.

Many companies select the cloud for its future technology platform, evolving into as much of a cloud-first or cloud-native model as possible.

An Deft Cloud Assessment includes many activities, but is not limited to:
- We review each workload (application, database, etc.) and collaborate with your company to determine the desired end state in the cloud.
- We will advise you on network topology and connectivity to meet internal and external end-user needs.
- We will collaborate with you to develop a high-level cloud architecture, physical infrastructure architecture (if necessary) and, the required network designs to meet the needs of a distributed, resilient, and scalable environment.
- We will collaborate with you to deliver recommendations that apply cloud and DevOps best practices in operation, governance and security, taking into consideration the unique requirements your organization faces today–and will face tomorrow.

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- We strive to provide continuous feedback to your leadership team and IT team by using the collaborative time to advise on best practices and provide recommendations as additional topics are identified.

Highlights of the assessment findings may include, but will not be limited to:
- Identification of workloads that will not move to the cloud due to planned obsolescence or replacement.
- Identification of workloads that can be moved to the cloud "as is" and will not require a refactor or re-write effort.
- Providing a defined timeline for your cloud migration or digital transformation that can be met without impacting current projects or negatively affecting revenue streams.

Managing the current state of the project:
- You will know, daily, exactly where your Cloud Assessment project is through personal engagement with our PMO.
- Your cloud account structure build and application migrations will be done on time, to spec, and on (or under) budget.
- Turn-down dates for planned obsolescence and replacement applications will be identified, and comprehensive plans will be developed and executed to achieve these objectives without negatively impacting operations.

Collaboration
A Cloud Assessment is a collaborative effort. We cannot do this without the time and support of your team members. The high level of collaboration realized during these engagements makes them a success.

Your Cloud Assessment Artifact documentation will provide detailed observations and recommendations realized by our Cloud Services Team during the discovery sessions.

If at any point in time during this project you wish to engage with the executive leadership team at Deft, to gain their insight, ask questions or vet a concern, all you need to do is ask.

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Cost breakdown

A Cloud Assessment will provide you with a detailed cost breakdown that may include charges for infrastructure, server instances, storage, and cloud internal network connectivity.

This estimate will be refined as the project progresses so that you maintain 100% visibility into all planned costs.

After the environment has been operational for a few months, and performance tuning has been completed, additional savings may be realized. We will be there to assist with this effort when appropriate.

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Project Summary

Overview

Today's organizations have offices and staff dispersed throughout the U.S.–and likely across the planet. These disparate locations are commonly served by both locally hosted applications as well as applications hosted centrally in third-party data centers, public clouds, SaaS platforms, and any manner of cloud-based file-share and collaboration applications.

Many organizations determined that their current IT architecture and operating model optimal. It may not be cost-effective, does not utilize state of the art technologies. This does not provide the future-proof foundation for increasing agility and powering innovation for supporting profitable growth.

Together, we engage in detailed discussions regarding the best approach to transform your global IT strategy and operations while moving infrastructure and applications to the cloud.

A Cloud Assessment project is a result of those discussions, explicitly focused on advancing the company's IT and operational objectives:

Company-Wide Objectives

- Optimize IT resource utilization through improved collaboration
- Reduce costs through vendor and technology consolidation
- Increase agility and ability to respond to changing marketing conditions and customer requirements
- Position the company for innovation and growth

Technology Objectives

- Transform your company's IT infrastructure and applications to be cloud-enabled and, when possible, cloud-native
- Minimize or eliminate the IT infrastructure footprint in individual offices to improve management and performance
- Establish a cloud environment built for:
  - » Cost efficiency, ability, and innovation
  - » Scale-up capability for new apps, scale-out geographically to existing and future offices
  - » Security, availability and operational governance across business lines and geographies
  - » Migration of applicable current workloads to the cloud
  - » Support for the future development of cloud-native applications
- Develop your company's IT Infrastructure team skillset to support the cloud migration and deliver ongoing operation and administration of the cloud environment

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Project Description

All Cloud Assessments include a detailed roadmap for the migration of current workloads to the cloud, and reference cloud architecture models and best practices to build upon for future workload requirements.

These models are designed to provide your company flexibility in multi-site, company-wide collaboration, and innovation while maintaining cost control, operational governance, and security best practices. The resulting designs will allow our teams to work together, develop best practices, and share knowledge for both the cloud migrations and the development of new cloud capabilities.

This project can be summarized in the following top-line objectives:

- Perform an in-depth discovery of current workloads, applications, business needs, business drivers and competitive pressures
- Create a reference architecture for the company's cloud environment
- Consult on network architecture, including last-mile connectivity where required
- Deliver a documented Workload Migration Plan
- Deliver an integration plan of current cloud accounts and greenfield cloud workloads
- Consult and make recommendations to for IT staff regarding an optimum operational model for the cloud
- Deliver an estimate and analysis of the cloud spend for workloads identified for migration and post-implementation run costs
- Collaborate and share knowledge with your leadership team and IT staff throughout the project

Each location within your organization, existing or planned, will be identified and reviewed as appropriate.

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Discovery Process

Methodology

Deft uses an Agile methodology for planning and executing Assessment projects. This allows us to deliver projects in a manner that maintains strong collaboration, transparency, and flexibility with you and your entire organization.

Projects are broken into large phases called Epics. The three Epics identified for Assessment projects include:

- Discovery
- Design and Planning
- Reporting and Delivery

In this Cloud Assessment Overview artifact we will highlight the details of the discovery process. For additional information regarding the Design and Planning and Reporting and Delivery phases of a Cloud Assessment we have included a Table of Contents to illustrate the work executed in these Epics. To learn more about the second and third Epics, please contact us at sales@deft.com.

Discovery

Discovery sessions are conducted with your Subject Matter Experts (SMEs). These sessions serve to compile requirements and information about the current state of the business, IT, and their future state. This helps Deft understand and prioritize your goals and provides our team the opportunity to discover current challenges you're facing and explore how we can support you in solving those challenges.

During Epic 1, Deft works with your Information Technology (IT) department to deploy cloud information collection tools into your existing environments. These tools gather data including, but not limited to, number of servers, server operating system, configuration, and resource utilization. We will also conduct several in-person discovery interview sessions with Governance, IT Infrastructure, Applications, and Networking teams from your company to augment this automated process.

These meetings facilitate the identification of applications, databases, servers, and other resources that are planned for retirement or consolidation, as well as servers than can be replaced with cloud services such as Application Load Balancers and other serverless technologies.

Technology and Automated Data Collection

To identify and collect data on your current servers, we will use Cloud Data Collection tools. The company's IT team deploys these tools onto the existing environments with assistance from Deft. A Cloud Discovery Agent will be installed on each of the VMs and physical servers that are under evaluation or are highlighted for migration. Data will be collected across these servers during a pre-defined timeframe that will accommodate the normal course of business operations for the company.

The Discovery Agent collects data on each server, including CPU utilization metrics, memory utilization metrics, server IP address, as well as current server specifications. These accumulated data points will provide guidance on cloud compute and memory sizing recommendations for the servers that have been identified for migration.

It is common to initially have a large number of servers identified for potential migration. However, after application discovery meetings and in-depth interviews with the application owners and the infrastructure teams, the final count of servers identified for migration is usually reduced. This analysis significantly and consistently reduces the cost and size of the target cloud environment from initial estimates.

Interview and Information Discovery Sessions

- Compliance and Governance Needs Discovery
  » Governance and risk
- Network Improvements and Requirements Discovery
  » Network & security
  » Network improvements and requirements
  » Infrastructure utilization and improvements
- Applications to be Migrated Discovery
  » Third-party applications
  » Business operations/business drivers
  » Custom applications
  » Applications technical deep dive
- Alignment (Deft/COMPANY)
  » Review project timeline
  » Validate initial findings/recommendations
  » Review undiscovered information
  » Discuss and confirm next steps
- SSO/Network Discovery
  » SSO
  » Network infrastructure
- Alignment (Deft/COMPANY)
  » Further review of the Cloud Region Peering Requirements
  » Review and confirm IP range requirements
  » Further review of the cloud network manager monitoring tool
  » Checkpoint on final network connection plans
  » Schedule discovery sessions for additional applications
- The Cloud Additional Application Discovery
  » IP range/subnets/network connectivity update
  » Custom1 application
  » Custom2 application
  » All other COMPANY applications

As a point of reference, a standard timeline for Epic 1: Discovery may include the following sections:

- A Formal Kick-Off Meeting
- Governance & Compliance Environment & Requirements Sessions
- Network Environment & Requirements Sessions
- Existing Application Environment & Requirements Sessions
- Formal Progress Meetings / Check-In Sessions
- IAM/SSO/Security Environment & Requirements Sessions
- Planned Application Environment & Requirements Sessions

Timeline

Discovery sessions are conducted over a period of weeks. Meetings are scheduled with key stakeholders and subject matter experts from your company. Scheduling interviews with SMEs is essential to understanding any challenges from the perspective of the end-users. During the discovery process, we develop relationships with multiple people from multiple departments. These relationships continue to provide value as we work in parallel delivering the Cloud Assessment and Migration projects.

Each project has a unique timeline, based upon the company's requirements. Additionally, there may be work sessions added to the Discovery epic that are specific to the business and requirements.

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A Deft Cloud Assessment

Unique for your business
Every Deft Cloud Assessment is unique. The requirements, objectives, challenges and opportunities are always specific to each organization. Deft's job is to set and your entire organization up for long-term success.

Following, please find a table of contents from a recent project. This will help you understand the process of the remainder of the project and illustrate the depth and attention to detail applied to each project.

If you would like to discuss a Cloud Assessment in more detail, or if you have any questions, please contact us at sales@deft.com, by calling +1.312.829.1111 or by visiting us at https://www.deft.com.

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Additional Questions

For more information, visit https://www.deft.com/ or contact us at (312) 829-1111 and sales@deft.com

About Deft

At Deft, we are our clients' most Trusted Advisor.

We know that technology promises the world—streamlined infrastructure, instant scalability, seamless cloud migrations, and much more. We also know technology doesn't live up to its promise without the right partner. This is why we design, build, operate, secure, and scale unique technology solutions with a singular purpose—to deftly deliver on the promise of technology for you and your customers.

Learn more at www.deft.com or call us at (312) 829-1111.