Think about the factors one should consider when selecting a cloud provider. Identify two to three and justify your rationale. Review your classmates' answers and offer additional feedback and insight.

Professor and classmates,

The choice of cloud provider is much more important than it may appear at first glance. Some cloud providers may be suited to a specific kind of project and thus it’s capabilities and features may revolve around that kind of project.

Scalability is a major factor to consider in this choice. Some providers may be focused on small projects and thus don’t have much scalability to offer. This is fine as long as you only plan to host small projects, but this is not good if the project may grow to handle much more data over time. Less scalability may mean less cost in some cases so if the price is the biggest factor in a project then low scalability may be a good idea. I suppose it may be possible to just transfer the project to another cloud provider later on if needed- though it may be complicated depending on the services used.

Security is also a big focus when selecting the right provider to host a project. Security doesn’t entirely depend on the service. It’s almost always up to both the service and the developer to secure the application’s data correctly, but these services vary on the percentage of security that the developer is responsible for. Developers who feel they need more control over security should select a service that handles less of the security. Developers who trust the service to handle the security and would be glad to have less to program should select a service that retains more control over security management.

It may even be possible that a project just isn’t suited for cloud technology in the first place. Projects that are tightly coupled to physical hardware would be far too much trouble to even attempt to host on a cloud service. This might be a rare case as I can’t think of any projects that would require tight coupling with hardware- especially with databases such as MySQL and MongoDB that make it much easier to host a project that uses just about any kind of data.

Scott,

Migration is definitely a big factor in deciding on a provider. Even if you think you’ve chosen the best choice for your project, you may still find issues once the project is up and running. If these issues can’t be resolved due to issues with the provider then the developer needs an escape plan of sorts. It’s important to always consider this situation and try to choose a provider that would make migration easier if it came down to it.

Dioukou,

We seem to agree on scalability and security being important factors in choosing a cloud provider, but you also mentioned performance. Data access is a large part of performance but there is also traffic, or the amount of people accessing the project. It makes me wonder if the providers with higher traffic might have slower speeds. If so, then I wonder if some developers might find the higher amount of users worth the performance loss.