Cloud Readiness Assessment – Cloud Accelerators and Inhibitors

Highlighted below are the key factors that determine whether an application is suitable for Cloud or not

Accelerators

Highlighted below are factors that would signify that workloads are Cloud suitable.

- **Dev/Test Environments** – Sandbox environments can be easily scaled up or turn down on demand in the Cloud and are prime candidates for migration.
- **Infrequently Accessed Storage Archives** – It can be more cost effective to host large storage volumes that do not require frequent or immediate access.
- **Application development and testing -** Cloud is the right choice for application development and testing. With zero capital cost and low operation cost, cloud can help organizations of any size and type with faster prototyping, development and deployment. Once the product life cycle is complete, organizations can relinquish the cloud infrastructure.
- **Disaster Recovery -** Disaster Recovery as a Service has been gaining traction among organizations. IT professionals are now considering backing up their data in secured cloud environments.
- **Desktop cloud and productivity applications -** Desktop cloud and productivity applications like calendars, word processors, blogging tools, e-learning, mobile applications and others are better off with the cloud.
- **Mobile applications -** Mobile applications can utilize cloud environments. Cloud computing can do the heavy lifting in the backend and mobile devices can leverage the elasticity and scalability attributes of cloud.
- **Interaction-intensive Web 2.0 applications -** Interaction-intensive Web 2.0 applications, mash-ups and data-intensive applications like analytics, data mining and business intelligence are very clouduitable. Many organizations have already moved CRM, ERP, HR, management tools and business analytics onto cloud and getting good return on investment.

Cloud Suitable

Inhibitors

Highlighted below are factors that would hinder the suitability of a workload for Cloud.

- **High Network Throughput Applications** – Applications with high throughput requirements may see performance issues and latency if they are located away from their users.
- **Heavily Integrated Applications** – Applications that are heavily integrated will continue to require a high amount of communication or dependencies with their counterparts. In this case it is recommended that they remain together, be it in the Cloud or on premise.
- **Concern around privacy and sensitive information**– In these cases, cloud should not be used in IT infrastructure without legal advice.
- **Servers and storage may be dispersed all around the world**– When there is a geopolitical concern, data sovereignty and compliance issue, cloud should not be used.
- **Applications bound to a particular type of hardware, chips or drivers -** These applications rely on low level specific hardware resources. This category will not work in cloud computing infrastructure.
- **Large enterprise relational database management systems (RDBMS) -** Large enterprise relational database management systems (RDBMS) are not yet ready for cloud environment. There are several factors. Performance is one of them. Loading the database into cloud can be costly and also cause harmonization problem. Latency may impact Quality of Service (QoS).
- **Latency and slow Internet speed -** We all know that cloud is a new IT services delivery model through Internet. Latency and slow Internet speed will be a bottleneck for cloud applications. In absence of high speed broadband, cloud computing can not deliver the services. In this scenario, cloud computing model should not be used.

Less Cloud Suitable

Please note, inhibitors are not part of the ideal answer, and have only been included here for reference.

Cloud Readiness Assessment – Application Prioritisation

Highlighted below are the applications that should be prioritised for the Cloud Proof of Concept and a brief justification as to why

Priority	Application	Justification
1	Confluence	• Minimal effort. • Document storage • Minimal customisation
2	Enrolments Plus	• High volatility • Heavily integrated • Does not contain sensitive data • Dev/Test environment
3	Echo360	• High volatility • Is not highly customised • Has a lot of data that is not sensitive • Dev/Test environments
4	Student Feedback Survey	• Low degree of integration • Minimal data • Moderate customisation • Some development and test environments • Does not contain sensitive information
5	SharePoint	• Existing SaaS offerings • Some volatility • Does not have much in the ways of integration or sensitive data.