**Week4 Podcast Reflection**

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IS 5503: Cloud Computing

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**Podcast Reflection: Esty’s data platform migration to cloud**

There are a bunch of cloud providers all around the world. I personally feel interested in the below four cloud providers: Amazon Web Service (AWS), Microsoft Azure, Google Cloud Platform (GCP), and IBM Cloud. This time we are going to talk about the service capabilities and pricing of the four cloud vendors, which could also be the critical factors to consider when making assessments and decisions. AWS could be the first-ever cloud vendor since 2006 and it has a dominant leading position in the global market with a sea of expanded services to support computing, storage, database, security, AI and Machine learning, etc. Azure could be seen as the most competitive alternative to AWS because it provides almost similar services. With a strong support on hybrid cloud capabilities, it could bridge smoothly between cloud and on-premise environments. Also, it has released a set of popular SaaS products, like Office 365 and Dynamics 365. GCP not only has basic cloud components, like network, computing, storage and database, but also provides big data analysis and machine learning features. The reason I choose IBM cloud is not for its lower performance or lower market share in IaaS support, but for its specialty in Advanced AI security and blockchain features from IBM Watson. Besides that, we should be also aware of the pricing plans for different services on each cloud vendor. AWS is claimed to have a complex pricing calculation rule, while Azure provides a more intuitive and simple pricing model for long-term commitment partners. GCP gets a high reputation for its cost-effective services. Overall, as I mentioned earlier, most cloud providers provide common cloud infrastructure services and there could be differences between similar cloud services. Considering the learning curve and above, here is some free advice for your reference. For example, AWS could be your best choice if your business products rely heavily on different kinds of cloud services ranging from basic computing, storage, logs, to IoT, AI and ML. If your company has an emphasis on the big data processing, GCP might be a good option for you. If your business has strong compliance, security and governance requirements in data storage, you may choose Oracle or IBM Cloud. If you want to have hybrid cloud integration, maybe Azure could be your choice. If you are new to cloud platforms, Azure and GCP could be a better fit because they have more user-friendly UI design in the web console.

**References**

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