



*Winning the Cloud: A Strategic Roadmap for Accelerating
Google Cloud Platform's Market Growth*

A business consultancy report prepared for:

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Prepared by: Hisham Alboo

Studying Executive Master of Business Administration "Strategic
Leadership" at Quantic School of Business and Technology

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1. Executive Summary:

This report addresses the core strategic challenge facing Google Cloud Platform (GCP): how to accelerate growth and close the market share gap with Amazon AWS and Microsoft Azure. Despite possessing world-leading capabilities in data analytics, artificial intelligence (AI), and open-source technologies, GCP holds a distant third place with 13% market share.

Our analysis, utilizing Porter's Five Forces and a Resource-Based View, confirms that the cloud market remains highly attractive but is dominated by incumbents with deeply entrenched enterprise relationships. GCP's key weakness is not its technology, but its perceived late-mover status in enterprise integration and its less mature B2B sales ecosystem compared to Microsoft and Amazon.

This report presents a three-pillar growth strategy:

- Dominate the AI & Data Verticals: Leverage and productize GCP's asymmetric advantages in AI and data analytics to create an unassailable moat in high-value sectors.

- Win the Hybrid & Multi-Cloud Enterprise: Radically simplify the hybrid cloud experience and become the central platform for managing multi-cloud environments, countering Azure's hybrid strength.
- Lead the Industry-Specific Cloud Revolution: Move beyond generic IaaS/PaaS to develop and market deeply integrated, industry-specific solutions (e.g., for Healthcare, Retail, Finance).

The accompanying strategic action plan outlines a 24-month roadmap with specific initiatives, milestones, and a projected initial investment of \$150 million, focused on sales force expansion, strategic acquisitions, and industry-specific Go-To-Market strategy efforts. By executing this strategy, GCP can shift from being a technology leader to a market leader, potentially increasing its market share to 18-20% within 3 years.

2. Overview:

2.1 Cloud computing is important for modern businesses and plays a key role in their operations:

Cloud computing has emerged as a pivotal technology reshaping the landscape of information technology and business operations, offering scalable, flexible, and cost-effective solutions for managing data, applications, and services (Adeoye & Osibo, 2023)[1], (Onwuzurike, 2024) [2].

Its importance lies in its ability to dynamically provide computing resources, shifting expenditure from capital investments to more manageable operational costs for businesses of all sizes (Onwuzurike, 2024)[2] , (Choudhary et al., 2015)[3] . This paradigm is built upon robust cloud infrastructure, which serves as the foundational element enabling the delivery of various cloud

services, including Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS), Platform as a Service (PaaS), and Software as a Service (SaaS) (Mohanasundaram et al., 2018)[4] (Marinescu, 2013)[5] (Casino et al., 2024)[6] (Pathak et al., 2024)[7] (Razaque et al., 2022)[8].

The cloud infrastructure typically comprises essential components such as servers, storage, network, and management software (GhasemiGol, 2019)[9] (Lal, 2015)[10]. These components are often virtualized, allowing for the dynamic allocation and scaling of resources based on user demand (Sato et al., 2011)[11]. The management system within the cloud infrastructure is crucial for ensuring the normal operation and dynamic provisioning of these resources (Sato et al., 2011)[11] (Innocent, 2012)[12]. Key cloud service providers like Amazon, Google, and Microsoft have pioneered and continue to support these delivery models, with companies like Amazon being significant in IaaS, Google focusing

on SaaS and PaaS, and Microsoft also involved in PaaS (Marinescu, 2013)[5].

The importance of cloud computing for businesses manifests in numerous benefits. These include significant cost savings by reducing the need for substantial upfront investments in hardware and software (Onwuzurike, 2024)[2] (Choudhary et al., 2015)[3] (Revathi et al., 2024)[13]. It enhances agility and resource utilization by providing scalable computing resources over the internet (Onwuzurike, 2024)[2] . Cloud adoption can revolutionize how enterprises operate, streamlining processes, fostering collaboration, and improving overall efficiency (Adeoye & Osibo, 2023)[1] (Revathi et al., 2024)[13] . Moreover, cloud computing offers enhanced scalability, improved collaboration, and the capacity to adapt quickly to shifting market conditions (Revathi et al., 2024)[13] . Beyond cost and efficiency, cloud computing

contributes to security benefits, such as enhanced data protection, improved disaster recovery capabilities, proactive threat detection, and centralized management (Shriwas et al., 2024)[14]. The global nature of cloud services, accessible on-demand from anywhere with network access, further underscores its importance (Gundu et al., 2020)[15].

The infrastructure supporting cloud operations involves complex architectural elements. A typical cloud computing architecture includes components such as database servers, application servers, and directory servers, all within the cloud environment (Jyoti et al., 2020)[16]. Different types of clouds exist, including private, public, hybrid, and community clouds, each offering various service models like IaaS, PaaS, and SaaS (Jyoti et al., 2020)[16] (Gundu et al., 2020)[15]. Load balancers are critical for distributing incoming requests across multiple servers, optimizing resource utilization,

and ensuring high availability (Jyoti et al., 2020)[16] (Gundu et al., 2020)[17] (Muteeh et al., 2021)[18]. Management components like cloud controllers, schedulers, and brokers orchestrate the overall operation, resource allocation, and interaction between providers and consumers (Jyoti et al., 2020)[16] (Khodayarseresht et al., 2023)[19]. Firewalls are essential for security, controlling network traffic and protecting the cloud environment (Jyoti et al., 2020)[16]. Image analysis of cloud architectures often depicts this layered approach, showing the interplay between devices, network infrastructure, and the various cloud service. For instance, one visualization details the cloud computing architecture with its different cloud types and the role of components like the load balancer and cloud controller. Another highlights the device connections and the application, platform, and infrastructure layers of cloud services. Mobile cloud computing architectures, for

example, illustrate the interaction between mobile clients, mobile networks, the internet, and cloud service providers.

The importance of cloud infrastructure extends to its role in supporting emerging technologies and trends. It provides the backbone for big data analytics, enabling companies to derive valuable insights from vast amounts of data generated within their systems (Saraswat & Choudhari, 2024)[20]. Cloud computing, with its cost-effective resources, facilitates the hosting and processing of this data (Saraswat & Choudhari, 2024)[20]. Integration with the Internet of Things (IoT) is another crucial area, where cloud infrastructure handles the massive amount of data generated by IoT devices, supporting applications in smart cities and various industries (Huang et al., 2020)[21] (Alhaidari et al., 2020)[22] (Pathak et al., 2024)[7] (Čolaković, 2023)[23] (Alam, 2021)[24]. The cloud also plays a vital role in supporting cutting-edge fields like

artificial intelligence, robotics, and upcoming technologies, providing the computational power and infrastructure required for these advancements . The concept of the "cloud-to-edge continuum" emphasizes the integrated approach, where cloud infrastructure works in tandem with edge computing to meet the stringent requirements of futuristic applications like metaverse and haptic communication (Maia et al., 2024) [25] . Architectures illustrating this continuum show the interaction between cloud data centers, access networks, and edge computing nodes providing localized services.

Furthermore, cloud computing's impact on business value is being actively studied. Research explores how cloud adoption influences different types of innovation, such as exploitative and explorative innovation, and how environmental characteristics like dynamism and complexity moderate these relationships (Li et al., 2024)[26] . A

conceptual model highlights how cloud computing influences business value through innovation, considering environmental characteristics and control variables like industry and firm size. Studies also investigate the practical business impacts of cloud computing adoption, identifying strategic, managerial, operational, and functional benefits (Deed & Cragg, 2022)[27]. The financial services industry, for example, is leveraging cloud computing for various applications (Dandapani, 2017)[28].

Despite the numerous benefits, the adoption of cloud computing also presents challenges, particularly regarding security and privacy (Singh et al., 2018)[29] (Onwuzurike, 2024)[2] (Sharma & Ahuja, 2017)[30] (Sharma et al., 2023)[31]. Ensuring data confidentiality and integrity within the cloud environment is a core concern (Singh et al., 2018)[29] (Pathak et al., 2024)[7]. Attacks on cloud infrastructure can lead to significant service disruptions

(GhasemiGol, 2019)[9] . Therefore, addressing security issues for cloud computing infrastructure is paramount (Sharma & Ahuja, 2017)[30] .

In conclusion, cloud computing, underpinned by a complex and dynamic infrastructure, is of significant importance to modern businesses due to its ability to deliver scalable, flexible, and cost-efficient IT resources. Its benefits, ranging from cost savings and increased efficiency to enhanced security and support for emerging technologies, are driving its widespread adoption across various sectors. While challenges, particularly in security, require careful consideration, the ongoing evolution of cloud infrastructure and its integration with other technological advancements solidify its critical role in the current and future business landscape.

2.2 Which global companies dominate the cloud services market?

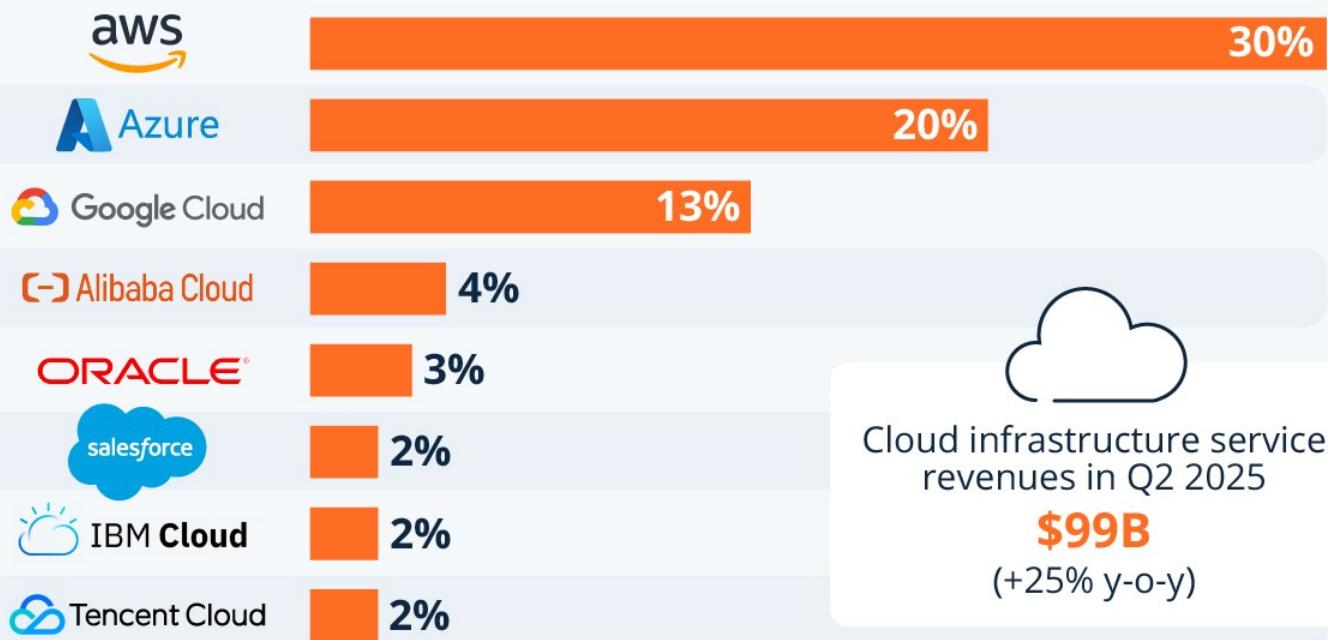
The global cloud services market is primarily dominated by a few major players, notably Amazon Web Services (AWS), Microsoft Azure, and Google Cloud Platform (GCP) (Bhatte et al., 2022)[32] (Patil & Sankapal, 2024)[33]. These providers offer a wide array of services, encompassing Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS), Platform as a Service (PaaS), Software as a Service (SaaS), and Data as a Service (DaaS), catering to both enterprises and individual users on a pay-as-you-go basis (Bhatte et al., 2022)[32] (Sajid et al., 2022)[34] (Gundu et al., 2020)[15]. While IBM Cloud and Oracle Cloud are also significant contenders, AWS, Azure, and GCP hold the largest market share (Bhatte et al., 2022)[32] (Sajid et al., 2022)[34].

But the last news available ,Amazon Web Services (AWS) continues to outperform its competitors, with a 30% market share in Q2 2025

— ahead of Microsoft's Azure at 20% and Google Cloud at 13%. The “Big Three” collectively account for more than 60% of the growing market. Global spending on cloud infrastructure services grew by 25% in Q5 2025, adding \$20 billion and bringing total spending for the quarter to \$99 billion, while for the full year, service revenues surpassed \$400 billion. This strong and sustained growth reflects growing enterprise reliance on the cloud, a trend further driven by the growing influence of Artificial Intelligence (AI) services. According to John Dinsdale, chief analyst at Synergy Research Group, this forms a “virtuous cycle”—new capabilities enable greater demand, which in turn fuels further investment and innovations in the sector (Felix Richter, 2025)[35].

The Big Three Stay Ahead in Ever-Growing Cloud Market

Worldwide market share of leading cloud infrastructure service providers in Q2 2025*



* Includes platform as a service (PaaS) and infrastructure as a service (IaaS) as well as hosted private cloud services

Source: Synergy Research Group



statista

The competitive advantages of these leading cloud service providers stem from various factors, including their extensive infrastructure, diverse service portfolios, continuous innovation, and established market presence.

Below is an analysis of the competitive advantages that position these companies as market leaders, with considerations for the competitive landscape in 2025 based on available literature:

| Company | Competitive Advantages |
|---------------------------|---|
| Amazon Web Services (AWS) | Established market leader with the broadest and deepest set of services, extensive global infrastructure, strong focus on innovation (including AI/ML and HPC) (Harika, 2024)[36] (Sochat et al., 2025)[37] (Pacios et al., 2025)[38], and a mature ecosystem. Known for performance and variability (Ahuja et al., 2025)[39] and robust security features (Guptha et al., 2021)[40] (Rath et al., 2019)[41]. |

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Microsoft Azure | <p>Strong presence in enterprise markets due to integration with Microsoft ecosystem, competitive pricing, hybrid cloud capabilities, and significant investments in AI/ML and data analytics (Hassan et al., 2022)[42] (Polinati, 2025)[43] (Tamla et al., 2025)[44]. Offers comprehensive security solutions comparable to AWS (Guptha et al., 2021)[40] (Rath et al., 2019)[41]</p> |
| Google Cloud Platform (GCP) | <p>Strengths in data analytics, machine learning, and open-source technologies like Kubernetes (Borra, 2024)[45]. Known for competitive pricing, performance variability (Ahuja et al., 2025)[39], and advanced networking capabilities (Lin et al., 2025)[46]. Expanding its service offerings and global footprint (Sajid et al., 2022)[34].</p> |

These providers differentiate themselves through various means. AWS, for instance, is noted for its comprehensive suite of services and its pioneering role in the cloud market, maintaining a leading

position in terms of market share (Bhatte et al., 2022)[32] (Harika, 2024)[36]. Its infrastructure-as-a-service offerings, such as EC2 for virtual machines and S3 for storage, are widely adopted (Varshney & Ujjwal, 2021)[47] (Liu et al., 2023)[48]. AWS also provides robust ETL tools for data management (Borra, 2024)[49].

Microsoft Azure leverages its strong relationships with enterprises already using Microsoft software and services. It offers a competitive alternative to AWS, particularly in areas like backup programming and support for IoT and retail organizations (Hassan et al., 2022)[42]. Azure's services are also used in specialized applications like medical named entity recognition (Tamlal et al., 2025)[44] and residential energy systems interoperability (Leniston et al., 2025)[50]. Azure DevOps and GitHub, both under Microsoft, are prominent CI/CD platforms (Manolov et al., 2025)[51].

Google Cloud Platform is recognized for its prowess in data analytics and machine learning, making it a preferred choice for data-intensive workloads (Sajid et al., 2022)[34] (Borra, 2024)[45]. Its services are increasingly being used in comparative analyses against AWS and Azure for various applications, including geoinformation data processing (Nedosnovanyi et al., 2023)[52] and high-performance computing (HPC) (Sochat et al., 2025)[37] (Munhoz & Castro, 2023)[53]. Cross-cloud platforms utilizing both AWS and GCP are also being explored for applications like satellite image detection (Pacios et al., 2025)[38].

The competitive landscape in 2025 continues to be shaped by these major players, with ongoing developments in areas such as serverless computing (Function-as-a-Service) offerings like AWS Lambda and Azure Functions (Ivan et al., 2019)[54], and the increasing adoption of containerized microservices orchestrated

and provisioned within these cloud environments (Saboor et al., 2022)[55] (Muniswamy & Vignesh, 2024)[56]. Security remains a crucial factor, with providers continually enhancing their security services and compliance measures (Guptha et al., 2021)[40] (Rath et al., 2019)[41]. The concept of hybrid cloud, combining on-premise infrastructure with public cloud services, is also a significant trend (Polinati, 2025)[43] (Gundu et al., 2020)[15]. The market is also seeing increased scrutiny from regulatory bodies, as highlighted by discussions around proposed regulations in Europe impacting data transfer fees and open interfaces to facilitate switching between providers (Gans et al., 2023)[57].

Competitive advantages in the cloud market, as in other service industries, are also influenced by factors such as the ability to manage large-scale infrastructure efficiently, offer flexible pricing models (pay-as-you-go), provide high reliability, and ensure strong

security and compliance (Prygara & Yarosh-Dmytrenko, 2021)[58] (Yevtushenko & Fedorchenko, 2023)[59] (Perebyynis et al., 2024)[60] (Kucherivska, 2024)[61] (Grechan & Bilik, 2023)[62] (Novikova et al., 2024)[63]. The rapid growth of cloud computing necessitates effective resource provisioning and allocation strategies, often involving complex brokerage mechanisms to help users navigate the heterogeneous market and select the most advantageous services (Yao et al., 2025)[64] (Li et al., 2022)[65]. The ability of organizations to effectively utilize big data analytics and organizational innovation, potentially mediated by these capabilities, also contributes to gaining competitive advantage in the cloud era (Korayim et al., 2023)[66]. As the cloud computing paradigm evolves, including the emergence of edge-cloud computing environments, the competitive dynamics among providers will likely continue to shift, driven by innovation and

strategic positioning (Yao et al., 2025)[64] (Marcelino et al., 2025)[67] (Liu et al., 2023)[48]. Furthermore, optimizing operational costs, particularly in energy-intensive data centers, is becoming increasingly important for cloud service providers to maintain competitiveness (Guo et al., 2025)[68].

3. Problem Statement & Aims:

Primary Problem: Google Cloud Platform(GCP), despite its superior technology in key areas, is positioned third in the cloud infrastructure market with a 13% share, significantly behind AWS (30%) and Microsoft Azure (20%) (Felix Richter, 2025)[35]. The current growth rate is insufficient to close this gap meaningfully. The core challenge is a strategy and positioning gap, not a technology gap.

Aims of this Consultancy:

- To diagnose the root causes of GCP's market share disparity through rigorous external and internal analysis.
- To identify and evaluate potential strategic growth vectors that leverage GCP's unique strengths.
- To develop a practical, actionable, and costed strategic plan to accelerate GCP's growth and increase its market share.

4. Research Methodology:

This report is based on a comprehensive and systematic analysis of secondary data, designed to diagnose the strategic challenges facing Google Cloud Platform (GCP) and to develop evidence-based recommendations. The research process was structured in three distinct phases: 1) Data Collection, 2) Data Synthesis, and 3) Strategic Analysis & Framework Application

4.1 Research Design and Approach

A qualitative, descriptive, and analytical research design was employed. This approach was selected as it is best suited for investigating complex business strategy problems where the objective is to understand "why" and "how" rather than to measure "how much." The research is exclusively based on secondary data,

which allows for a broad, industry-wide perspective and leverages existing, validated research from authoritative sources.

4.2 Data Collection: Sources and Selection Criteria

The data collection process focused on aggregating information from a wide range of credible secondary sources to ensure a holistic and unbiased view of the cloud competitive landscape. The following sources were utilized:

- Academic Research: Peer-reviewed journal articles and conference papers were sourced from major academic databases, including:
 - Google Scholar
 - ScienceDirect
 - IEEE Xplore
 - SpringerLink

These sources provided foundational theories on cloud infrastructure, competitive strategy, and the Resource-Based

View, as well as empirical studies comparing cloud service providers.

- Professional & Industry Analysis: To ground the analysis in current market realities, data was collected from leading technology market research firms, including:
 - Synergy Research Group (for market share data and growth trends).
 - Statista (for data visualization and market forecasts).
 - Gartner and IDC (indirectly, through citations in other publications).
- Financial and Business Publications: Reputable business news and analysis platforms such as SSRN were used to access working papers and in-depth analyses on specific cloud provider strategies and financial performance.
- Official Provider Documentation & Whitepapers: Publicly available information from AWS, Microsoft Azure, and GCP was reviewed to

understand service portfolios, pricing models, and official strategic positioning.

Selection Criteria: Sources were prioritized based on:

- Authority: Preference was given to established research institutions, recognized analysts, and top-tier academic publishers.
- Relevance: The focus was on literature published within the last 5 years (2020-2025) to ensure the analysis reflects the current, dynamic state of the cloud market.
- Objectivity: A balanced range of sources was consulted to mitigate bias, including studies that critically evaluated all three major providers.

4.3 Data Synthesis and Analysis Process

The collected data was synthesized and analyzed through a multi-stage process:

- **Market Landscape Overview:** Data on market share, growth rates, and spending (e.g., from Synergy Research Group) was consolidated to establish a baseline understanding of the industry's structure and key players.
- **Competitive Benchmarking:** Information on each provider's services, strengths, and weaknesses was compiled into a comparative framework. This involved categorizing capabilities into areas such as AI/ML, hybrid cloud, enterprise integration, and pricing to identify patterns of competitive advantage and disadvantage.
- **Thematic Analysis:** The qualitative data from academic and industry literature was analyzed to identify recurring themes, challenges, and strategic trends, such as the critical role of AI, the importance of hybrid/multi-cloud, and the shift toward industry-specific solutions.

4.4 Framework Application

The synthesized data was then analyzed using established strategic frameworks to derive structured insights:

- Porter's Five Forces: This framework was applied to the synthesized market data to assess the overall attractiveness and competitive intensity of the cloud infrastructure industry.
- Resource-Based View (RBV) and VRIO Analysis: GCP's internal capabilities, as identified through the competitive benchmarking, were systematically evaluated using the VRIO framework. This structured process determined which resources are truly valuable, rare, inimitable, and non-substitutable, thereby forming the core of our strategic recommendations.

5. Analysis: The Cloud Competitive Landscape:

5.1 Market Share & Growth Dynamics

The cloud infrastructure market is a high-growth, high-stakes arena. In Q2 2025, global spending grew by 25% year-over-year to \$99 billion, with full-year revenues surpassing \$400 billion (Felix Richter, 2025)[35]. The market is dominated by the "Big Three" (AWS, Azure, GCP), who collectively control over 60% of the market. This concentration indicates significant barriers to entry and the power of incumbency. The market is being further energized by the "virtuous cycle" of AI, where new capabilities drive demand, which in turn fuels more investment (Felix Richter, 2025)[35].

5.2 Competitive Benchmarking: AWS, Azure, and GCP

- Amazon AWS: The undisputed pioneer and market leader. Its competitive advantage lies in its broadest and deepest service portfolio, extensive global infrastructure, and a mature partner

ecosystem (Harika, 2024). It is the default choice for many startups and developers.

- Microsoft Azure: most direct competitor for the #2 spot. Azure's power stems from its deep integration with the entrenched Microsoft enterprise stack (Windows Server, Active Directory, Office 365). This gives it a formidable advantage in hybrid cloud deployments and a direct line to enterprise CIOs (Hassan et al., 2022)[42] ,(Polinati, 2025)[43].
- Google Cloud Platform (GCP): The technology innovator. Its strengths are in data analytics, AI/ML, and open-source technologies (Borra, 2024)[45] .However, it is often perceived as less enterprise-ready and lags in the depth of its enterprise sales relationships.

5.3 Strategic Framework: Resource-Based View of Google Cloud Platform (GCP)

The Resource-Based View(RBV) posits that sustainable competitive advantage comes from possessing valuable, rare, inimitable, and non-substitutable (VRIN) resources.

Google Cloud Platform Resource VRIO Analysis:

| GCP Resource | Valuable? | Rare? | Inimitable? | Non-Substitutable? | Strategic Implication |
|---------------------------|-----------|------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|--|
| AI/ML Tech (Vertex AI) | Yes | Yes (Leader) | Partially (Complex) | No (AWS SageMaker, Azure ML) | Asymmetric Advantage. Must be leveraged to create unique solutions competitors cannot easily replicate. |
| Data Analytics (BigQuery) | Yes | Yes (Top-tier) | Partially | No | Key Differentiator. Can be the core reason enterprises choose GCP for data-intensive workloads. |
| Kubernetes Expertise | Yes | No (Open Source) | No | No | Table Stakes. Essential for credibility but not a differentiator. Must be used to build higher-value services. |
| Global Network | Yes | Yes | Partially (Costly) | No | Performance Leader. Can be marketed for low-latency, high-performance applications. |
| Brand & Talent Pool | Yes | Yes | Partially | No | Trust & Innovation. Attracts top talent and provides a foundation of trust, but must be directed towards enterprise needs. |

VRIO Framework Legend

Yes - Resource possesses this attribute

Partially - Conditional or limited possession

No - Resource lacks this attribute

Conclusion: GCP's most powerful VRIN resources are its AI/ML and Data Analytics capabilities. The current strategy of competing head-to-head with AWS and Azure on a generic service-by-service basis is a losing game. The winning strategy is to change the rules of the game by making the competition about capabilities where GCP holds an unbeatable advantage.

6. Statement of Recommendations

We propose a three-pillar strategy to reposition GCP and accelerate growth.

6.1 Recommendation 1: Dominate the AI & Data Verticals

Stop selling generic AI tools; sell business outcomes. Package

GCP's AI and data services into turnkey, vertical-specific solutions.

- Action: Launch "AI Solutions for..." pre-packaged suites (e.g., "AI for Predictive Maintenance in Manufacturing," "AI for Personalized Medicine in Healthcare"). These would combine BigQuery, Vertex AI, and industry-specific data models and APIs.
- Justification: This creates a moat around GCP's core strengths. While AWS and Azure have AI services, they lack Google's depth of research and data heritage. This makes the offering difficult to imitate and provides clear, measurable value to customers.

6.2 Recommendation 2: Win the Hybrid & Multi-Cloud Enterprise

Acknowledge the reality of the multi-cloud world and make GCP the best platform for managing it.

- Action: Accelerate and Rebrand "Anthos" as the universal control plane for any cloud (AWS, Azure, private data centers). Invest heavily in making it seamless, secure, and cost-effective.
- Justification: This is a classic judo strategy. Instead of fighting Azure's hybrid strength head-on, this move neutralizes it by making GCP the central management hub for all IT, including Azure itself. It appeals to the growing enterprise desire to avoid vendor lock-in.

6.3 Recommendation 3: Lead the Industry-Specific Cloud Revolution

Move up the value chain from selling infrastructure to selling business transformation.

- Action: Establish dedicated business units with their own P&Ls for 3-4 key industries (e.g., Healthcare, Financial Services, Retail). Staff them with industry experts, product managers, and sales teams who speak the language of the customer.
- Justification: Competitors are still largely organized around technology domains, not customer business problems. By building deep, industry-specific expertise and solutions, GCP can bypass the CIO and build relationships with line-of-business leaders (e.g., Chief Marketing Officer, Chief Medical Officer), who control an increasing portion of technology budgets.

7. Strategic Action Plan and Costings

To translate our strategic recommendations into actionable results, we have developed a comprehensive 24-month plan organized across four key perspectives: Financial, Customer, Internal, and Organizational. The total projected investment for this transformative initiative is **\$150 million**.

7.1 Financial Perspective

- **Primary Objective:** Accelerate profitable growth and increase market share.
- **Initiatives & Investment:**
 - A **\$150 million strategic investment fund** has been allocated to drive the initiatives outlined below. This capital will be deployed to fuel R&D, market-launch activities **Go-To-Market strategy (GTM)**, and strategic hiring, with a focus on generating a disproportionate return in high-value market segments.
- **Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) & Targets:**
 - **Increase Market Share:** Achieve a global market share of **18-20%** within 36 months.
 - **Accelerate Revenue Growth:** Attain a year-over-year (YoY) revenue growth rate of **35%+** by the end of Year 3.
 - **Improve Profitability:** Increase operating margins by **5 percentage points** through a focus on high-margin AI and industry-specific solutions.

7.2 Customer Perspective

- **Primary Objective:** Dominate high-value segments and become the partner of choice for AI and multi-cloud transformation.
- **Initiatives & Investment:**
 - **Launch Industry-Specific AI Suites:** Invest **\$60 million** to develop, launch, and market three pre-packaged "AI Solution" suites for targeted verticals (e.g., Healthcare, Financial Services, Retail).
 - **Win the Hybrid/Multi-Cloud Enterprise:** Allocate **\$50 million** to rebrand, enhance, and aggressively scale our Anthos platform, positioning it as the universal control plane for multi-cloud environments.
- **Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) & Targets:**
 - **Secure New Enterprise Contracts:** Sign **500 new enterprise contracts** specifically for the new AI vertical solutions within 24 months.
 - **Drive Anthos Adoption:** Ensure that **40% of all new enterprise deals** include the Anthos platform within 24 months.
 - **Enhance Customer Loyalty:** Increase our Net Promoter Score (NPS) by **+10 points** through superior, industry-tailored service.

7.3 Internal Process Perspective

- **Primary Objective:** Build and launch superior, market-defining products and services with speed and efficiency.
- **Initiatives & Investment:**
 - The R&D and engineering efforts for the AI suites and Anthos platform are covered under the **\$60M** and **\$50M** allocations, respectively.
 - **Develop Industry-Specific PaaS:** A portion of the budget will be used to build two new industry-focused Platform-as-a-Service (PaaS) offerings to create deeper customer lock-in.
- **Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) & Targets:**
 - **Accelerate Product Launches:** Successfully develop and launch the three AI solution suites within **18 months**.

- **Expand Platform Connectivity:** Achieve the connection of **1,000 non-GCP cloud environments** (AWS, Azure, on-prem) to the Anthos platform.
- **Increase Development Efficiency:** Reduce time-to-market for new features by **15%** through the implementation of agile "product pods."

7.4 Organizational & Learning Perspective

- **Primary Objective:** Cultivate a world-class, industry-expert workforce capable of executing this new strategy.
- **Initiatives & Investment:**
 - **Build a Specialist Sales Force:** Invest **\$40 million** to hire, train, and deploy **200 new industry specialists** across sales and solutions architecture roles.
 - **Upskill the Workforce:** Fund a comprehensive "GCP AI Expert" certification and training program to ensure our technical and sales teams are the most knowledgeable in the market.
- **Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) & Targets:**
 - **Complete Strategic Hiring:** Successfully onboard all **200 industry specialists** within 12 months.
 - **Increase Technical Competence:** Achieve an **80% certification rate** in relevant AI/ML and industry specializations among the customer-facing workforce.
 - **Improve Strategic Alignment:** Ensure **95% of employees** in the new business units have clear performance goals tied to the strategic KPIs

| STRATEGY MAP/OBJECTIVES | KPIs | TARGETS | INITIATIVES |
|------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| FINANCIAL | | | |
| Increase Market Share | Global Market Share | 18% by Year 3 | \$150M Strategic Investment |
| Accelerate Revenue Growth | Cloud Service Revenue Growth | +35% YoY by Year 3 | Industry-Specific GTM |
| Improve Profitability | Operating Margin | Improve by 5 percentage points | Focus on High-Value AI/ML Deals |
| CUSTOMER | | | |
| Dominate AI & Data Verticals | Enterprise Contracts in Target Verticals | 500 new contracts | Launch 3 "AI Solution" Suites |
| Win the Hybrid Cloud Enterprise | Anthos Adoption Rate | 40% of new enterprise deals | Rebrand & Enhance Anthos Platform |
| Improve Customer Loyalty | Net Promoter Score (NPS) | +10 points | Dedicated Industry Business Units |
| INTERNAL | | | |
| Accelerate AI Solution Development | New AI Product Launches | 3 suites in 18 months | \$60M R&D & GTM Investment |
| Optimize Multi-Cloud Platform | Non-GCP Environments Connected | 1,000 connected environments | Develop Native AWS/Azure Integrations |
| Enhance Industry Expertise | Industry-Specific PaaS Offerings | 2 new offerings by Year 2 | Establish 4 Industry Business Units |
| ORGANIZATIONAL | | | |
| Build Specialist Sales Force | Industry Specialists Hired | 200 new hires | \$40M Recruitment & Training Program |
| Increase Technical Competence | AI/ML Certification Rate | 80% of sales force certified | "GCP AI Expert" Training Program |
| Foster Cross-Functional Agility | Project Launch Speed | 15% faster time-to-market | Implement Agile Pods for Initiatives |

8. Limitations:

While this report aims to provide a robust and evidence-based strategic roadmap for Google Cloud Platform (GCP), several limitations should be acknowledged in the spirit of transparency and intellectual honesty:

- **Data Availability and Timeliness**

The analysis relies primarily on publicly available secondary data sources, including market research reports, academic publications. As the cloud computing industry evolves rapidly, newer data or developments—especially regarding AI-driven services, regulatory shifts, or cloud security innovations—may influence future strategic recommendations.

- **Scope of Analysis**

This report focuses on the *strategic positioning* of Google Cloud relative to Amazon Web Services (AWS) and Microsoft Azure. It does not cover smaller or emerging cloud providers (e.g., IBM Cloud, Oracle Cloud, Alibaba Cloud) in depth, which may hold relevance in specific regional or industry segments.

- **Forecasting Assumptions**

Financial and market share projections are based on estimated growth trends and historical performance data from reputable sources such as *Statista* and *Synergy Research Group* (Felix Richter, 2025). However, unforeseen macroeconomic factors—such as global recessions, energy crises, or geopolitical tensions—could significantly alter these projections.

- **Internal Data Constraints**

Due to confidentiality and proprietary access limitations, internal Google

operational, cost, and customer satisfaction data were not available for verification. Consequently, certain assumptions regarding GCP's resource allocation and cost structure were inferred from industry benchmarks.

- **Subjectivity in Strategic Interpretation**

Strategic frameworks such as the *Resource-Based View (RBV)* and *Porter's Five Forces* inherently involve analytical judgment. Although care has been taken to apply these frameworks objectively, some degree of interpretive bias is unavoidable.

- **Technological and Regulatory Uncertainty**

Rapid technological advancements in AI, quantum computing, and data sovereignty regulations (e.g., EU and Asia-Pacific policies) may alter competitive dynamics in ways not fully captured by current forecasts.

9. Reflective Statement on the Business Consultancy Capstone Project

As part of my studying Executive Master of Business Administration Strategic Leadership at Quantic School of Business and Technology, the Capstone Project provided a culminating opportunity to apply the theories, concepts, and frameworks learned throughout the program to a real-world business challenge. My project, titled *Winning the Cloud: A Strategic Roadmap for Accelerating Google Cloud Platform's Market Growth*, focused on analyzing Google Cloud Platform's (GCP) competitive position and proposing strategies to close its market share gap with leaders like Amazon Web Services (AWS) and Microsoft Azure. This reflection explores my learning experiences over the five-month journey, highlighting personal growth, challenges overcome, and how the project helped achieve my goals of enhancing strategic leadership skills. Drawing on reflective writing principles, I structured this as a narrative of description, analysis, and insight, emphasizing critical self-examination.

Initially, I approached the Capstone with a mix of excitement and apprehension. Having chosen the "Real Case" option—as it allowed individual work on an external organization without client access—I selected GCP due to its relevance to emerging technologies and my interest in digital transformation. The project's scope aligned with appropriate examples from the Valar institute , such as undertaking a strategic review of business growth options.

A key learning experience was applying academic concepts to practical recommendations, bridging theory and practice as encouraged by Valar institute. For instance, utilizing Porter's Five Forces to assess the cloud market's attractiveness and the Resource-Based View (RBV) to evaluate GCP's internal strengths—like its AI and data analytics capabilities—deepened my critical thinking. This process challenged me to move beyond surface-level analysis; I spent weeks gathering data from over 60 sources, synthesizing market dynamics, and benchmarking competitors. One pivotal moment was realizing GCP's "late-mover" perception as a weakness, not in technology but in enterprise sales ecosystems. This insight shifted my perspective from viewing cloud services as purely technical to understanding them as relational and strategic ecosystems. It echoed the experiential "learning by doing" approach in the handbook, where I practiced decision-making in a simulated consultancy role. Through this, I developed creativity in proposing a three-pillar strategy: dominating

AI/data verticals, winning hybrid/multi-cloud enterprises, and leading industry-specific revolutions. Crafting the 24-month action plan, with milestones and a \$150 million cost projection, honed my skills in implementation planning, turning abstract ideas into actionable metrics.

Challenges were abundant, fostering resilience and conflict resolution—even internally. The intense workload, including drafting over 50-page report under a tight timeline, tested my communication and reflection skills. Summarizing complex articles (e.g., on cloud infrastructure) often felt overwhelming, as extracting key insights required iterative editing to avoid dilution. This mirrored group dynamics in team-based projects, but as an individual, it forced self-accountability, teaching me to manage "difficult" aspects of my own workflow, like procrastination during the research phase. A low point was questioning the project's feasibility mid-way, when integrating financial, customer, internal process, and organizational perspectives felt disjointed. Overcoming this by outlining connections—similar to "connecting the dots" in reflective guides—led to a breakthrough, reinforcing my leadership growth. The handbook's mention of diverse teams succeeding through open minds applied here; though solo, I drew on cultural intelligence from prior courses to consider global cloud market nuances, enhancing my empathy for stakeholder perspectives.

Ultimately, this Capstone journey achieved my goals by transforming me from a theoretical learner to a strategic practitioner. I gained confidence in leadership and innovation, as evidenced by my improved ability to justify recommendations with evidence-based justification. Reflecting on progress, I've progressed from initial uncertainty to a sense of empowerment, ready to apply these skills in real consultancy roles. This experience not only closed knowledge gaps but also sparked ongoing curiosity in tech strategy, proving that blending theory with practice yields profound personal and professional development.

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