**HYPOTHETICAL SOLUTION FOR CLOUD STRATEGY ACTIVITY – GLOBALTECH SOLUTIONS**

**Phase 1: Define Business Goals & Readiness Assessment**

**Business Drivers for Moving to the Cloud:**

**Cost Savings:** Reduce data center costs, maintenance, and infrastructure investments.  
 **Scalability:** Enable automatic scaling during high-traffic sales periods.  
 **Security:** Improve protection of customer payment data.  
 **Performance:** Ensure high availability and faster load times for online shopping.

**Current IT Readiness & Challenges:**

**Legacy infrastructure** limits performance and scalability.  
 **Lack of cloud expertise** requires employee upskilling.  
 **Security concerns** due to customer payment data storage.

**How Cloud Will Help Increase Sales & Customer Satisfaction:**

**Faster Website Load Times:** Reduce cart abandonment rates.  
 **Personalized Shopping Experience:** Use AI-driven recommendations on Azure.  
 **High Availability:** Ensure uptime during flash sales and holiday seasons.

**How Cloud Will Improve Operations:**

**Automation:** Auto-scale servers based on demand, reducing manual intervention.  
 **Centralized Management:** Monitor and optimize cloud resources efficiently.

**Phase 2: Choose the Cloud Model & Migration Approach**

**Recommended Cloud Model:**

**Hybrid Cloud:** Maintain on-premises for sensitive payment data while leveraging Azure for scalability and analytics.

**Migration Strategy (Optional):**

**Replatform Approach (Partial Optimization):**

* Move web applications to Azure App Services for scalability.
* Store customer transaction data in **Azure SQL Database** with encryption.
* Implement **Azure Content Delivery Network (CDN)** for faster page loads.

**Phase 3: Security, Compliance & Risk Management**

**Security Risks & Solutions:**

**Data Breaches:** Use **end-to-end encryption** and **role-based access control (RBAC)**.  
 **Unauthorized Access:** Implement **Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA)** and **Azure Active Directory (AAD)**.  
 **DDoS Attacks:** Protect with **Azure DDoS Protection**.

**Compliance Considerations:**

**GDPR Compliance:** Encrypt customer data, ensure data residency in Europe if needed.  
 **PCI-DSS Compliance:** Implement secure payment processing solutions on Azure.

**Phase 4: Cost Optimization Strategy**

**Estimated Costs Using Azure Pricing Calculator:**

**Compute Costs:** $8,000/month for scalable virtual machines.  
 **Storage Costs:** $2,000/month for databases and backups.  
 **Bandwidth & Networking:** $1,500/month for global traffic.

**Cost Optimization Techniques:**

**Use Reserved Instances:** Prepay for VMs to save up to 40%.  
 **Auto-Scaling:** Reduce costs during off-peak hours.  
 **Leverage Azure Cost Management:** Monitor and adjust spending.

**Phase 5: Governance & Change Management Plan**

**Governance Policies & Tools:**

**Role-Based Access Control (RBAC):** Limit access based on job functions.  
 **Azure Policy:** Enforce security rules (e.g., only deploy resources in approved regions).  
 **Azure Monitor:** Track system health and anomalies in real-time.

**Employee Training & Smooth Transition:**

**Training Plan:**

* **Technical Staff:** Azure certification courses for IT teams.
* **Non-Technical Staff:** Cloud adoption workshops.  
   **Change Management Strategy:**
* Conduct a **pilot migration** before full deployment.
* Collect feedback and refine processes before scaling cloud adoption.

**Final Deliverables:**

A **scalable, secure, and cost-effective cloud strategy** that meets business needs.  
 A **clear roadmap** for cloud migration with governance and training strategies.  
 A **hybrid cloud model** leveraging Azure for agility while maintaining compliance.

**Key Takeaways:**

Cloud enables **better customer experience, operational efficiency, and cost savings**.  
Security & compliance must be **integrated into cloud strategy from the start**.  
A hybrid model allows **flexibility while maintaining regulatory compliance**.  
Governance and **ongoing monitoring** ensure long-term cloud success.