Case Study: Future Financial

Cloud-Native Adoption

Scenario

Future Financial is a multi-national organisation specialising in online loans. They have traditionally been a Microsoft house, with most applications developed in-house using .net and deployed to VMware virtual machines. Recently all existing applications have been lift-and-shifted from an on-prem VMware environment to VMware on the public cloud. Public cloud is also now the default for all new development.

The team applications current team is 150 people, made up of architects, developers, and testers. A third party had managed on-prem infrastructure and operations, and there was a "throw it over the wall" relationship between the applications team and operations. Although there were on-premises architecture skills in the team, these have not translated well to the public cloud. There are few people in the group with public cloud experience.

Future financial are keen to learn how to make the best use of the public cloud both to reduce costs and speed up their application development. They are also would like to explore and possibly leverage the big data tools available.

They want to create new cloud-native applications and modernise existing applications to be cloud-native. Their operating model should make the most of the public cloud. To date, there has been some early success in putting CI/CD pipelines in place for a few applications. There is a limited cloud centre of excellence focused on cost optimisation. Teams mainly interact by raising tickets to request new infrastructure. There is a frustration that working with the public cloud takes longer than when the applications were on-prem.

Future financial would like to move to feature teams where each team is self-sufficient enough to build and run applications and take care of cross-cutting concerns such as security. They are keen to reskill both their existing people, make new hires, and seek advice on the most helpful skill profiles and structure the teams.

Your Task

Your task is to prepare for a 15-minute introduction meeting with the CTO of Future Financial to address their questions:

- How would you access my current maturity?
- What options do I have to modernise my applications?
- What options do I have to update my operating model?
- What are the options to structure my teams, and what skills should I build first?
- What should I do first and what do you suggest are the milestones on the journey?

During your interview you will be expected to present your proposal to the interviewing panel and answer some questions.