

Executive Summary

Thank you for taking the next step to your cloud Journey and completing the IDC Cloud Strategy Assessment. Based on your answers, this report will highlight some of your organization's key strengths and potential areas for development in relation to your cloud strategy.

The IDC Cloud Strategy Assessment ranks organizations by three maturity levels — **Cloud Starter**, **Cloud Practitioner**, and **Cloud Master**. Organizations must strive to master all three dimensions to realize the true value of cloud and data.

The report will:

1. Share insights across these same three key sections as the IDC Cloud Strategy Assessment —**cloud migration and application modernization, multicloud status, and data value realization**. It breaks out the specifics of each dimension, with tangible advice on how to progress to the next stage of cloud adoption — making the insights focused and highly actionable.
2. Help you understand what sets the Cloud Masters apart from their peers and competitors.
3. Suggest which best practices can help make your cloud and data transformation journey successful.

Based on your responses to IDC's Cloud Strategy Assessment, your organization has been rated at the earliest level of cloud strategy maturity — **Cloud Starter**. This means you are at the beginning of your cloud and data-enabled journey, and there will be much to do and much to gain.

The better an organization is in its vision, execution, and ability to overcome challenges along the way, the higher it is in the maturity curve — giving it a competitive differentiation.

Knowing how you score in relation to the IDC model and where improvements can be made helps to focus your efforts — resulting in quicker time to value from your cloud and data transformation investments. Read the complete report to get a better understanding of your organization's cloud maturity stage and what steps to take.

The Intelligent Core Powers Business Processes of the Future

The graphic below represents IDC's model for the new digital platform— we believe this is the essential foundation on which to launch and scale your digital transformation (DX) initiatives.

The digital platform is built on a multicloud architecture and places data at the heart of a platform. This spans IT, digital, and business domains, and starts with an "intelligent core" that holds the code that enables you to turn data into insights and tools.

The foundational services do not go away. IT governance, a modern architecture and applications, integration, and development services are the enablers of this new digital platform.

The Digital Platform Improves Processes

Internal data is collected through connected assets, employees, connected processes, and other data streams. This data circulates through the data core, in turn transforming the data into insights. Those insights circle back into the organization as improved internal processes.

The Digital Platform Improves Engagement

Data from external processes enters through engagements with customers and their devices, bots, AR/VR devices, connected vehicles, and other technologies. As this data circulates through the intelligent core, it is transformed into actions that can be taken to improve engagements with the ecosystem.

The digital platform is built on a modern architecture, leveraging cloud-native applications, containers, and microservices, with data feeding the intelligent core — producing the intelligence that enables business speed, agility, and resilience.

Introduction

Cloud adoption is critical for successful IT modernization to support digital transformation initiatives. Competing in the global economy for customers, investment, and talent requires instant access to relevant data and IT resources that don't compromise on speed, scale, security, or costs.

A well-thought-out cloud strategy and consistent execution of this strategy delivers the flexibility and scale that underpins digital business success and data transformation.

Cloud and data transformation initiatives improve efficiency, business performance, and the speed of innovation.

The key priorities for organizations accelerating their digital transformation journeys are IT modernization, successful cloud adoption, and progress in becoming data driven. They want to use cloud and data transformation initiatives to improve efficiency, business performance, and the speed of innovation. Delivering on digital business mandates requires a well-thought-out cloud strategy and set of technologies to drive innovation, all without compromising on cost control, security, or regulatory obligations. Providing a flexible IT delivery model and relevant data at speed, while aligning with business needs, is critical.

Developing a successful cloud and data strategy will be the bedrock on which to digitally transform your organization in a scalable and agile manner.

Ranking Explanation

Organizations that view cloud as a critical technology and the foundation of their digital transformation — and not just a tactical way to save costs — will be in a better position to capitalize on new digital initiatives, yield higher returns, and ultimately make cloud strategy a success.

- *The key to successful digital transformation is the ability to make IT a business enabler by leveraging cloud and business data.*

The better an organization is in its vision, execution, and ability to overcome challenges along the way, the higher it is in the maturity curve — giving it a competitive differentiation.

The IDC Cloud Strategy Assessment ranks organizations by three maturity levels — **Cloud Starter**, **Cloud Practitioner**, and **Cloud Master**. Organizations must strive to master all three dimensions to realize the true value of cloud and data.

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Key Differentiation Among the Three Cloud Usage Levels

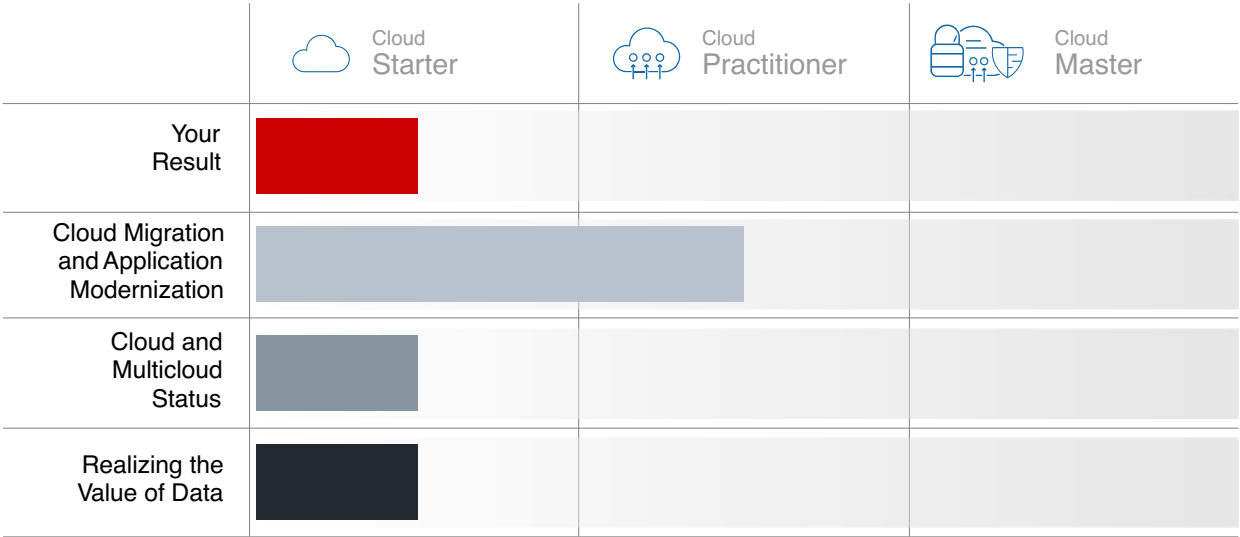
Organizations can only successfully compete in the global economy if their cloud and data-related strategies are world-class and the execution is consistent and adaptive, and takes advantage of the relevant cloud and data-enabling technologies.

IDC predicts that by 2022, 50% of global GDP will come from digital services and products.

Your Ranking

Based on your responses to IDC's Cloud Strategy Assessment, your organization has been rated at the earliest level of cloud strategy maturity — **Cloud Starter**. This means you are at the beginning of your cloud and data-enabled journey, and there will be much to do and much to gain.

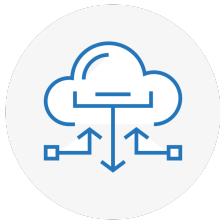
The following chart shows your overall score and how you scored in each subdimension. This snapshot enables you to quickly identify your strengths and areas for development. The report will break out the specifics of each dimension with tangible advice on how to progress to the next stage of cloud adoption.



Initial Recommendations: (Cloud Starter)

With the right guidance, leveraging industry best practices, and working with specialist vendors and partners, you will catch up quickly.




1. You need to define a starting point and set short, mid- and long-term priorities.
2. Start to drive incremental improvements.
3. With the amount of potential complexity and a shortage of digital skills, seek outside assistance where possible to accelerate your move to a cloud-enabled and data-driven organization.



Cloud Migration and Application Modernization

Welcome to the cloud migration and application modernization chapter of this report. *IDC research shows that an effective cloud adoption and legacy application modernization strategy, built on the right fundamentals, is a critical element of a successful digital transformation strategy. A consistent and planned strategy to migrate to cloud-like, services-driven infrastructures and to transform legacy applications enables enterprisewide digital transformation.*

This section will assess your maturity and progress in key areas of cloud migration and application modernization and help determine where you need to focus to get the best results. It is based on what's driving your key investment decisions, the challenges you are facing, and how initiatives are being prioritized within your cloud strategy.

	 Cloud Starter	 Cloud Practitioner	 Cloud Master
Cloud Migration and Application Modernization	<div>You are here</div>		<div>Enables technical and business agility, speed and improved resiliency Competitive advantage through unique process improvements Automation drives further operational efficiency, freeing up resource to focus on innovation New customer applications and service delivery capabilities drive enhanced levels of CX</div>

You will be pleased to know that your overall score for cloud migration and application modernization indicates that you are ahead of your Cloud Starter peers. Very well done.

While keeping this up, you should focus on other aspects such as eliminating management complexities, adopting more automation, and seeking ways to monetize data to improve your overall cloud and data transformation capabilities.

Question 1

What is the key driver of your cloud migration and application modernization strategy?

Cloud is a great way to drive operational efficiency at the infrastructure layer, as the cloud provider manages the infrastructure for you so you can free up IT infrastructure operations staff and focus them on other tasks. However, the move to the cloud requires new skills as well, so you need to retrain your staff with cloud management capabilities or look to external resources to fill the gaps. In addition, please consider that **cloud offers much more than operational efficiency and is the foundation for digital transformation. To move to the next level of cloud maturity, you might want to investigate how you can use the cloud for business model innovation and transformation, for example by opening up your data and driving new revenue streams from your data in a compliant way.**

Question 2

To what degree are these challenges impacting your cloud strategy?

As a Cloud Starter, you have already tackled some important cloud challenges and are ahead of your Cloud Starter peers in this area. The move to the cloud is more than a simple technology upgrade — it is transforming not only your technology platform but also your processes, your staffing requirements, your security procedures, and how you collaborate with other parts of your business.

Recommendation:

To move to the next stage of cloud maturity, you need to:

- Define the starting point for your cloud journey.
- Do an audit of the challenges you encounter in implementing your cloud strategy, rank them in order of importance, cost, and complexity, start with the easy ones to achieve some quick successes, and plan to address the more complex challenges.
- Reach out to an experienced partner for additional resources, support, and guidance.

Question 3

Looking at your 2-3 year strategy, please rank the importance of the following initiatives?

You are prioritizing a good number of cloud-related initiatives. This is better than your Cloud Starters peers. A typical cloud journey starts with creating IT efficiencies within the datacenter, freeing up IT resources and satisfying security, regulatory

compliance, and data governance requirements.

Looking forward:

- As a next step, organizations are typically looking to implement an agile, cloud-based application architecture using microservices and containers.
- Finally, they are building an intelligent core to implement and scale analytics, machine learning, and artificial intelligence.
- To do that, they need to automate and orchestrate the exchange of data within their ecosystem to develop new digital experiences that drive customer satisfaction and revenue.

As a Cloud Starter, you are doing well to progress on the next level of initiatives and work your way up to the more complex projects ahead.

Question 4

To which degree are these cloud migration challenges faced by your organization?

Where to start your cloud journey and which workloads to migrate is not an easy decision.

First, you need to establish if there is an organizational need to move to the cloud. While we are seeing a broader trend in the industry, with an increasing number of organizations moving to the cloud, it might not be a good fit for your organization to have every workload and application in the cloud; it all depends on your specific workloads, performance requirements, data sensitivity, regulatory compliance concerns, etc.

Once you have decided that cloud is going to be part of your IT infrastructure mix, you need to determine:

- Which applications are a good fit for the cloud
- Which migration strategy fits to which application class
- How complex the migration is going to be
- And, last but not least, if you have the right cloud skills internally or if you need to select an appropriate external partner for support

As a Cloud Starter, you have already defined your starting point and understand the migration complexities of the different classes of applications. You are ahead of your Cloud Starter peers.

As a next step, you need to devise a migration strategy (lift and shift, refactor, transform, etc.) for each application class and choose an experienced cloud migration partner if you don't have the skills in-house.



Cloud and Multicloud Status

Cloud is the launchpad for digital transformation, with **69% of organizations operating a multicloud environment today**, according to IDC's 2019 Multicloud Survey. Given the advancements in cloud solutions and the importance of security, resilience, cost transparency, and compliance, cloud adoption is more nuanced today.




Successful enterprises are committed to enterprisewide IT transformation in a sustainable and compliant way, making multicloud and hybrid cloud a natural evolution. How they navigate through the multicloud complexities and develop unified monitoring, workflow management, cost management, and compliance determines their multicloud success.

The realization is dawning among savvy enterprises that there is no "silver bullet cloud" that answers all IT issues. **Organizations therefore seek to build an interoperable, hybrid, and multicloud IT infrastructure to gain the benefit of cloud without compromising on core IT values of security, resilience, and compliance.**

This section of the report assesses your organization's cloud and multicloud status by evaluating:

Cloud is seen as an operating model rather than a destination.

- Your cloud usage
- The maturity of hybrid or multicloud environments
- The objectives you have set in relation to your multicloud initiatives — that is, how aligned are your multicloud strategies with business outcomes
- How well you are executing on your hybrid and multicloud strategies

	 Cloud Starter	 Cloud Practitioner	 Cloud Master
Cloud and Multicloud Status	<div>You are here</div>	<div>Improved visibility and control across you IT environment</div> <div>Stronger security and compliance</div> <div>Access to new innovative technologies, API's and Cloud Marketplaces opens a mass of new opportunities</div>	<div>Additional benefits gained at the cloud mastery level</div>

Your overall score for this section indicates that you are in line with your Cloud Starter peers when it comes to cloud and multicloud maturity. You are at the beginning of your cloud and multicloud journey, with many areas still to be

addressed. You should look into individual assessment areas within this section to better understand what changes you could potentially make to improve your cloud and multicloud status.

Question 5

Which of these environments represents the majority (>50%) of your IT estate?

You have embraced cloud in the form of private cloud. It is a good starting point, but is it still just an extension or refresh of your traditional on-premises IT? You may be delivering IT resources slightly faster and may be benefiting from modern technologies such as software-defined infrastructure. You need to now become more proactive in your cloud usage and evaluate how expanding it to a multicloud and hybrid cloud strategy can bring modern IT benefits such as self-service and robust SLAs.

Question 6

Which one of these cloud benefits is the most vital to your business?

You are using multiple cloud services and linking them directly to business outcomes and objectives. **You should focus on things like; driving specific customer experience objectives with your cloud strategy or capitalizing on data, to gain a competitive edge.**

Question 7

To what degree are these challenges faced around cloud operations and management

Getting cloud operations and management right is critical for running a successful cloud practice

Your score for this question indicates, you have moved beyond several of the early stage challenges in setting up an efficient cloud operations and management practice.

To improve further, you need to ensure good visibility and control of your IT infrastructure, both on premises and in the cloud; *invest in multicloud monitoring, management, automation, and orchestration tools to reduce the need for error-prone manual tasks; set up a strong security, data governance, and regulatory compliance framework; and make sure that you manage your cloud expenses tightly.*

Once the foundation is in place, you can look at API management, integration, and interoperability, as well as implementing a CI/CD pipeline to automate cloud operations.



Realizing the value of data

Data is at the heart of digital transformation and gives enterprises a competitive advantage.

Data on its own doesn't mean anything — it is how enterprises treat it as a valuable asset, work with it, manage it, and capitalize on it that brings about the real difference.




Data-driven organizations are more confident about delivering better customer experiences and take confident business decisions.

Capitalizing on and monetizing data is a journey and requires organizations to consider the full data life cycle, from collection to storage to management to analytics

Is there a culture in your organization of treating data as an asset? Are IT confident of delivering the right data to the right hands at the right time without compromising on security and privacy?

"Creating the right foundation to share, manage, and collaborate on data is critical to innovate and improve decision-making capabilities in the digital era"
Carla Arend, IDC, 2020

This section of the report assesses the stage of your organization's data capitalization vision and strategies based on the maturity of your data-driven objectives and your progress in the data value realization journey.

	 Cloud Starter	 Cloud Practitioner	 Cloud Master
Realizing the Value of Data	<div>You are here</div>	Improved cross functional data sharing, improves strategic alignment and operational performance Analytics improve understanding of the business, enhancing executive decision making	Additional benefits gained at the cloud mastery level

Your overall score for this section indicates that you are in line with your Cloud Starter peers with respect to the progress you have made so far. You are at the beginning of your journey, so there are many areas you need to address. You can look into individual assessment areas within this section to understand what changes you could make to improve your cloud maturity.

Question 8

At what stage are you on your data value realization journey?

You have made a really good start in your data value realization journey. Well done.

You have a real opportunity to turn data into insights and develop a competitive edge. But it is a multiyear, multidimensional journey.

As a next step, you should leverage the combination of internal and external data sources and then progress to the next steps such as analytics and beyond that to AI and ML-based data strategies.

Question 9

Please indicate how critical these data driven objectives are to your data strategy / organization?

IDC research indicates that the cloud strategies and data strategies of organizations are increasingly converging.

To build a great data strategy, you need to create a data map to gain visibility and control of your data, and improve the quality and speed of your data delivery so that you can use the data to create a competitive advantage. You also need to hire data experts to gain new insights from your data and deliver new data-driven revenue streams.

As a Cloud Starter, you are at the beginning of your data value realization journey. There is a long road ahead, and working with a strong partner can help to accelerate your data realization journey.

Recommendation

Thank you for taking this cloud migration, application modernization, and data capitalization maturity test. This demonstrates your ambition to succeed in your digital transformation strategies and is a good starting point to set you apart from your peers. We hope you have been able to identify the weaknesses and strengths in your approach, and have gained some tangible advice to help make progress, while developing a competitive edge.

Final recommendations to progress to the next level of maturity.

- *Define the starting point for your cloud journey.*
- *Do an audit of the challenges you encounter in implementing your cloud strategy, rank them in order of importance, cost, and complexity, start with the easy ones to achieve some quick successes, and plan to address the more complex challenges.*
- *Reach out to an experienced partner for additional resources, support, and guidance.*

As you plan your digital strategy, and work on aligning technology investments to business outcomes, you need to work with a partner to modernize your digital core — to build agile applications and infrastructure to power innovative business models. This includes planning a road map for cloud migration and application modernization,

leading to business transformation. To learn more about optimizing cloud to accelerate digital innovation, please click here:

<https://www.hitachivantara.com/go/cloud-services/>