



IDC's Cloud Strategy Assessment

RESULTS REPORT

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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.

To assess cloud adoption maturity, IDC has developed a Cloud Strategy Assessment tool to understand digital business ambitions, cloud strategies, and execution challenges. Based on the results, we have grouped the respondents into three categories — Cloud Starter, Cloud Practitioner, and Cloud Master — to understand what sets the masters apart from their competitors and which best practices we can learn from them in making the cloud and data transformation journey successful.

Well done on your result. Based on your responses to IDC's Cloud Strategy Assessment, your organization has been rated at the second highest level of cloud maturity — a **Cloud Practitioner**. This means your organization is generally in line with the rest of the industry and has prepared itself for the highest levels of cloud and data success. While you are doing well, there is still a bit more to do, to be fully cloud and data ready. To create a true competitive advantage, your focus must shift from a tactical approach to a more strategic, fully aligned way of thinking across all areas of the business.

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 form the bedrock on which to digitally transform your organization in a saleable and agile manner.

As a **Cloud Practitioner**, your key priorities are to define and measure metrics to track migration and application operations in public cloud, standardize migration processes and workload evaluations, and automate operations. You also need to overcome the complexities of cloud operations to further progress and scale your cloud migration and modernization strategy.

Cloud Practitioner organizations have already addressed the low-hanging fruit, seen the business benefits of the cloud strategy, and have the determination to make progress. They need to maintain the momentum and invest in transforming legacy business processes and legacy applications to graduate to the next stage.

Ranking Explanation

Organizations that view cloud as a critical technology and the foundation of their digital transformation, as opposed to 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 your 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.

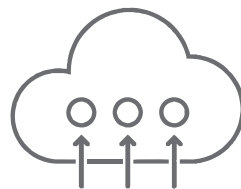
The better an organization is in its vision, execution, and overcoming challenges along the way, the higher it is in the maturity curve, giving it a competitive differentiation.

Cloud Starter organizations rarely view cloud as a vehicle for competitive differentiation and just see it as a tactical tool for cost savings. Their key priority is to carry on “as is” in their IT journey and dedicate their limited budgets to core IT and application modernization strategies. These organizations also don't regard data value realization as critical for digital business success.



Cloud Starter

organizations rarely view cloud as a vehicle for competitive differentiation and just see it as a tactical tool for cost savings. Their key priority is to carry on as is in their IT journey and dedicate little budgets to core IT and application modernization strategies. These organizations also don't regard data value realization as critical for digital business success.



Cloud Practitioner

Cloud Practitioners understand the value of cloud as a digital business enabler and have ambitions to become a data-driven organization. While these organizations are well into their cloud adoption and IT modernization journeys, they are facing stumbling blocks to make that cloud transformation end-to-end and achieve all business objectives. They certainly have the cloud vision and determination to make progress and will be focusing on overcoming the challenges to graduate to the next stage of maturity.



Cloud Master

Cloud Masters have successfully overcome most of the challenges in achieving their cloud migration, application modernization, and data-driven strategy objectives. But as business dynamics, cloud services and security needs are constantly evolving, as are business needs, their key priority is in maintaining their competitive edge by keeping their cloud and data-driven strategy current. They are not taking their eyes off the goal and continue evaluating their new bottlenecks, security postures and new data-related opportunities to remain the masters.