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## Agile Cloud Transformation

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The cloud has become an essential part of an overall strategy for businesses seeking growth, especially with the rise of remote workforces, offering increased flexibility, scalability, and cost savings. It also gives businesses the opportunity to become more competitive, and oftentimes more cost-effective, flexible, and scalable. The cloud is at the heart of any digital transformation initiative.

Cloud migration continues to see significant growth year over year, with public cloud services expected to reach [a record \\$592 billion](#) this year alone. Gartner also estimates that over [85% of organizations will be cloud-first by 2025](#).



Developing a cloud migration strategy can be a daunting start to a business' journey; it's necessary to ensure a successful process, however. There are myriad considerations when crafting a migration strategy including desired goals, assessment of current infrastructure, creation of timelines and budgets, and planning for testing to ensure a seamless transition. Enterprise businesses often react to these considerations with expensive multi-year planning processes—often guided by traditional consulting firms—resulting in significant delays to reaching their end goal of transformation.

It has become increasingly evident that a flexible, agile cloud migration strategy is more effective than a traditional heavyweight process that may take years to navigate. Taking an agile approach has become more popular in recent years. AWS Premier Consulting Partner Mission Cloud delivered 100% of its cloud migrations to AWS last year using agile migration strategies. There's a reason for this: an agile approach offers numerous benefits that help maximize the success of cloud migrations.

## A Look Back

Past cloud migration approaches often featured consulting firms that would discuss strategies for years before taking any action. Key factors contributing to the delays and lack of agility in the migration process included:

- Understanding the existing infrastructure: Before migrating to the cloud, it was crucial to have a comprehensive understanding of the organization's existing infrastructure, applications, data,

and dependencies. This involved conducting thorough assessments and an analysis of the current environment, which could be time-consuming.

- Complexity of legacy systems: Many organizations had complex legacy systems that were not designed with cloud compatibility in mind. Migrating these systems to the cloud required careful consideration of various technical challenges, such as compatibility issues, dependencies, and customizations. Assessing these complexities and devising strategies to address them took time.
- Risk assessment and mitigation: Cloud migration involves certain risks, such as data security, compliance, and potential disruptions to business operations. Consulting firms needed to identify these risks, assess their potential impact, and develop strategies to mitigate them. This risk assessment process often required thorough analysis and collaboration with various stakeholders, contributing to the overall time required.
- Strategy development and planning: Consulting firms would spend significant time discussing and developing before taking action, attempting to create alignment across business units and departments.

Employing a one-size-fits-all approach and experiencing pitfalls—such as overarching predictions when evaluating business outcomes—during the process can be detrimental to the overall migration. To maximize the success of cloud migrations, businesses should opt for the flexibility to test, pivot, and revise methods as they go, while still ensuring that the migration addresses existing infrastructure requirements, legacy systems, risks mitigation, and overall strategy. This will prove to be most valuable and will help companies realize the benefits of migrating more quickly.

Fortunately, adopting an agile approach to cloud migration has become much more feasible for most businesses over the last 5-7 years.

## More Suited Technology

Technology has continued to evolve and is now more suited for an agile approach. Workloads and applications are now being built with more cloud-native technologies. Containerization has continued to grow as a preferred solution, with companies—that may or may not already be in the cloud—leveraging containers for their workloads.

Modern microservice and serverless architectures are also seeing increased adoption. Businesses can now move individual microservices that run inside containers into the cloud, rather than employing a “big bang” approach to migrating workloads. A massive re-architecture is no longer necessary in many cases now, which in turn reduces the need for tedious planning cycles that only serve to slow progress. This has paved the way for incremental agile approaches.

## Cloud Vendors Making Progress with Agile, but Still Face Challenges

Public cloud vendors have made significant strides in becoming more agile-ready over the years. They continuously introduce new features, services, and updates to enhance agility for their customers. It's important to note, however, that the applicability of a cloud vendor's offerings can depend on various factors, including the specific services used and the customer's requirements.

That being said, there can still be challenges that make AWS and other cloud platforms more complex for certain use cases. Here are a few examples:

- **Service Variety:** AWS offers a vast array of services and features, which can be overwhelming for users who are new to the platform. Navigating through the extensive service catalog and understanding the right combination of services for a particular use case can be challenging.
- **Complexity of Configuration:** AWS provides a high level of flexibility and customization options, but this can also lead to increased complexity. Configuring and then managing various services, permissions, networking, security, and resource allocation requires expertise and careful consideration.
- **Scaling and Cost Management:** While AWS offers robust scaling capabilities, managing scalability and cost optimization effectively can be complex. Organizations need to plan and design their applications and infrastructure architecture with scalability in mind, and implement appropriate monitoring and automation to ensure cost-efficient resource utilization.
- **Learning Curve:** AWS has a broad set of services and APIs, and keeping up with the frequent updates and new releases can be a challenge. Developers, architects, and operations teams need to invest time and effort in learning and staying up to date with the evolving AWS ecosystem.
- **Integration Challenges:** For organizations with existing legacy systems or multi-cloud environments, integrating AWS services with other systems can introduce complexity. Ensuring smooth integration, data transfer, and compatibility between different platforms can require additional effort and expertise.

While these considerations often create friction for customers looking to migrate, cloud vendors have reacted to combat each obstacle, making investments to drive growth of their platform adoption.

In the face of these challenges, AWS has taken a position of leadership in supporting agile cloud transformation, developing the Migration Acceleration Program (MAP) to provide an agile blueprint for cloud migrations. The MAP program is designed to guide businesses and partners through complex, large-scale migrations using a proven methodology developed over many years of experience with tens of thousands of customers and millions of workloads.

AWS certifies select consulting partners like Mission Cloud to execute MAP migrations, supported with funding by AWS itself—reducing cost for businesses and greatly increasing the likelihood of successful outcomes. Businesses looking to accelerate their migration initiatives while also reducing cost would be wise to reach out to AWS to be matched with a MAP-certified migration partner.

## A Cloud Native Approach

Now, with evolving technology, priorities, and trusted cloud-native partners, businesses can feel confident in accelerating their digital transformation initiatives by adopting an agile migration strategy.

While fears may exist among decision-makers around whether cloud transformations are suitable for an agile approach, those fears should be allayed thanks to technology advancements, capabilities launched by public cloud providers, and with vendors adopting a cloud-native approach in all aspects of business.

Businesses and enterprises that take advantage of agile cloud transformation will reap the full benefits of migrating to the cloud, enabling their organizations to operate faster and more efficiently. Over time, companies will realize improved performance, increased security, and oftentimes, cost savings.