Understanding how business process and technology maturity impact cloud strategies. More and more companies are realizing the benefits of mature virtualization capabilities for important applications. And many have moved non-essential applications to externally hosted SaaS cloud providers. But what about using cloud technologies and techniques internally to increase agility and service levels while reducing cost and inefficiency? We accept technology as a fundamental enabler, yet aspects of an organization’s operational conduct can also help predict or prevent a successful internal cloud deployment.
BRINGING CLARITY AND DISCIPLINE TO PRIVATE CLOUD ADOPTION

Cloud computing takes virtualization and resource pooling to a new level by introducing the enabling principles of on-demand user self-service, metered utilization/charge model, ubiquitous network access, and rapid elasticity. These characteristics present added challenges to an organization’s processes and controls.

The Datalink cloud readiness assessment helps answer the following questions surrounding cloud adoption to help you make sensible, forward-looking decisions.

- How will your processes for change and release fare when allowing certain user groups to self-provision resources?
- How will your compliance controls perform in a highly automated virtual world of shared resources?
- Is your business prepared to account for IT or applications to be metered out as a service?
- Do you know what business use cases might benefit most from implementing an internal cloud?

WHY DATALINK

- We take a use-case-centric approach to cloud computing, accelerating the impact of the cloud in predictably successful applications, while limiting the risk of overreaching or creating vague expectations.
- We have advised many medium- and large-sized enterprises on data center transformation strategies, including cloud computing adoption.
- We have designed and operated several cloud computing offerings for more than five years, including cloud-based backup and recovery and Secure Archiving for the Enterprise (SAFE), which we provide dozens of customers.
- Our advisory services provide a holistic review of your environment as it pertains to successful cloud adoption, including technology, business skills, and process.
- Our cloud readiness assessment is part of our extensive cloud enablement program, which is designed to assist customers on their journey to cloud maturity, no matter where they are today.

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DISCOVERY

- Business requirements and strategies
- Development plans
- Fiscal budgets and cost allocations
- Business continuity plans
- Project plans and timelines

ANALYSIS

- Service level agreements (SLAs)
- Policies and procedures
- Standards and specifications
- Network and architecture diagrams
- Process flows

DELIVERY

- Business impact assessments
- Audit and testing reports
- Performance metrics
- Capacity and utilization metrics
- Budget reports and cost analysis
BENEFITS OF DATALINK CLOUD READINESS ASSESSMENT

- Improve business agility and operational efficiency.
- Understand how well your business is positioned for cloud adoption and where potential benefits lie.
- Mitigate risk by knowing what controls and processes support or impede your cloud computing goals.
- Identify and validate cloud use cases that will be beneficial for your business’ future.
- Establish a maturity baseline across business, process, and service controls to measure progress over time.
- Define high-priority organizational and/or operational gaps to cloud adoption.
- Give IT executives empirical data to support cloud strategy investments.

THE JOURNEY TO CLOUD MATURITY BEGINS HERE

We begin by assessing how IT enables your business today, and discovering your goals and requirements for a successful cloud deployment strategy. We facilitate interviews with key stakeholders from the business, process owners, and the technology teams, and also review existing technical documentation to understand your current operating model and its ability to support the next phases of cloud computing.

Datalink consultants analyze information across the following five areas:

- Business control
- Financial oversight
- Service and operations
- Orchestration and delivery
- Architecture and engineering

These areas are measured considering process, vision / steering, people, culture and technology, using an industry-standard, rubric-based methodology adapted by Datalink for cloud maturity to explain each area’s applicability to cloud adoption.

You’ll receive findings in a written report and an executive, slide-based presentation. Projects range in size and duration, but typically take from four to eight weeks.

CLOUD READINESS MATURITY SUMMARY

Making IT happen

A complete data center solutions and services provider, Datalink helps Fortune 500 and mid-tier enterprises get the most from every IT investment – with storage, server, and network expertise across the infrastructure.

We deliver greater business results throughout, designing what we sell, deploying what we design, and supporting what we deliver.