How do you start extracting value from the cloud?

Best practices to maximize the business value of cloud

Most enterprises today have at least one application running in the cloud, but many struggle to realize the full business value from their cloud initiatives, bogged down by a lack of skills and uncertain strategies.

Value realization has never been more important. Cloud has enormous potential for business in terms of efficiencies, innovation, and new revenue streams, but many enterprises have only tapped into a small percentage of the capabilities that cloud has to offer. The secret is to extract value from cloud make the most of business opportunities, while delivering more with less.

Three phases of cloud transformation

1 Build use cases where cloud can be used as a catalyst for innovation and new revenue streams

2 Application transformation involves rearchitecting and refactoring to harvest the benefits of cloud-native, including faster release pace, ease of management and a superior customer experience

3 Managed service automaton to enhance overall efficiencies

Cloud as part of the business strategy

It doesn't matter where you are on your cloud maturity scale – cloud is an enabler for business growth.

Start with early engagement to identify strategic business objectives. This includes involving heads of business departments and project managers during the IT planning phase. You may need to set up a cross-departmental team to achieve this or utilize outside consultancy to bring IT and business together. If you approach cloud as just an IT project, you could be setting yourself up for failure.

Once you have identified your strategic business objective, the next step is to ensure that the enterprise makes the right technology investments at the right time to improve performance and productivity, while supporting innovation.

By incorporating cloud technologies into the overarching business you can make sure they meet business case objectives, innovate new business models, and create monetizing opportunities. This includes aligning workloads across the organization for greater efficiencies, prioritizing initiatives with the most promising business cases and building KPIs and analytics to qualify overall success.

orange™ **Business Services**

Application transformation to drive growth

Many enterprises have applications across multiple platforms. These include on-premise, enterprise clouds, remote branches, software-as-a-service, and multiclouds. To get maximum value, all these processes need to be seamlessly integrated to drive interoperability and smart decision-making.

Application transformation is an umbrella term covering everything from reducing the number of applications within an enterprise to migrating them to the cloud. It also encompasses assessing legacy applications and their suitability for modern infrastructures and cloud-native. By carrying out legacy application transformation, enterprises can save time and cost by optimizing how the technology works and is managed.

Application modernization may be done differently depending on the application, such as re-hosting, replatforming, or rearchitecting. Decide on the best approach from the outset to ensure security, reliability, and operational efficiency in the cloud.

Application transformation requires cloud infrastructure and cloud software creation expertise to ensure long-term resilience, maintainability, and compatibility.

Create a cloud center of excellence as a beacon of best practice

Cloud adoption has many intricacies, from balancing workloads and application transformation to automation. A cloud center for excellence (CCoE) can help reduce complexities by providing a centralized body designed to lead and govern cloud adoption across the organization.

According to Gartner[2], a CCoE represents the best way to ensure cloud governance and, at the same time, maintain business agility. Policies and standards should be based on good practices harvested from across departments.

The CCoE should provide guidelines to foster "doing the right thing" and implement guardrails to limit exposure to cloud-related risks, Gartner recommends.

By 2024, most legacy applications will receive some modernization investment, with cloud services used by 65% of the applications to extend functionality or replace inefficient code.[1]

Creating a bridge between development and IT operations

DevOps working alongside cloud makes a massive difference to the development cycle in terms of speed, agility, and scalability. The DevOps continuous, iterative approach to development requires guide rails and a solid foundation. This is where service reliability engineer (SRE) teams come in. SRE teams use software engineering methodologies and procedures for system administration topics.

SRE works to make systems as reliable as possible. It utilizes operations data and software engineering to automate repetitive IT operations tasks and speed up delivery while minimizing risk. At the same time, SRE supports DevOps in its principles, providing a practical approach to solving DevOps problems. For example, it measures nearly all events during a deployment. Rolling this feedback into DevOps lets the team know what to improve.
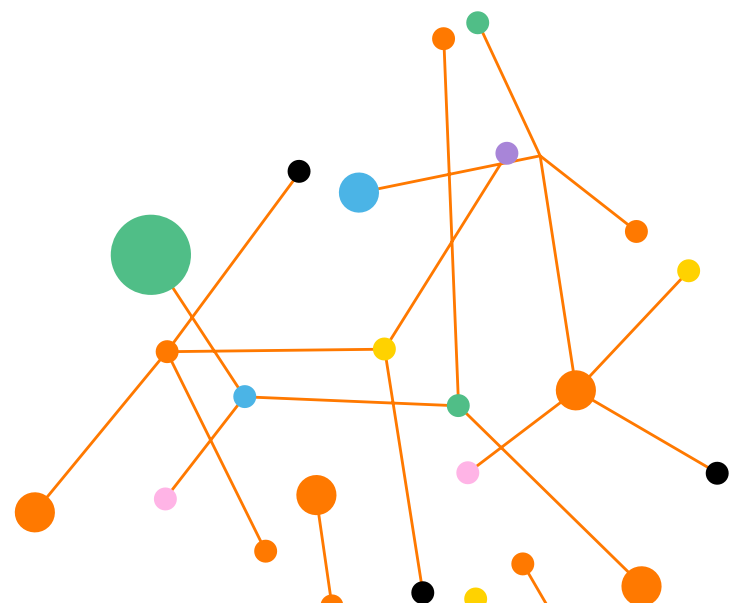
Five steps to finding value in the cloud

Cloud comprises of key components; technology, people, and processes. An enterprise must have all these to make its cloud estate work successfully.

Having the right skills around development, cloud infrastructure, traditional networking, and security are paramount. With enterprises increasingly looking to connect things like 5G devices and monitoring it is essential to understand precisely how to do things differently in the cloud or be severally disappointed by the business value generated.

1 **Choose applications that align with business priorities** to consider for application transformation. It is important to decide how advanced the software transformation should be to ensure it provides maximum business value.

2 **Enterprises must estimate their application transformation costs in advance.** Application migration can be expensive depending on the approach taken, especially if workloads are not suitably prepared in advance. If the wrong applications for transformation are chosen, it can also be costly in terms of lack of performance in the long term.

3 **Automate delivery to accelerate time to market.** Moving from legacy to modern applications in the cloud enables enterprises to implement automation into delivery processes, streamlining IT, providing faster deployment, scalability, and easier cloud management, for example. As well as increasing productivity, it will ensure continued improvement and help you retain a competitive edge.

4 **When transitioning to cloud-native, start small and scale up.** This approach ensures that the components of the application work with both legacy and cloud technologies to avoid business disruption.

5 **A strong multidisciplinary team must be put in place to ensure that departments will not ignore a CCoE.** As well as cloud architects, DevOps, security, network and data experts, it is also important to have people with soft skills such as change management and communications.

Your trusted partner to drive cloud value

Wherever you are on the cloud maturity scale, Orange Business Services can help you to get the most value from your cloud investment, providing multicloud managed applications services encompassing cloud-native applications. These include:

Business strategy

We can help you establish a cloud and data strategy as part of your overarching business roadmap, ensuring your cloud estate delivers on business value, innovation, and new revenue models.

Application transformation

We can help you transform your legacy software into modern applications that take full advantage of the capabilities of cloud. We work with customers to transform monolithic architecture applications into a microservice environment. In addition, we can transform database applications to cloud-native PaaS/SaaS to simplify management and transform workloads to serverless computing.

Setting up a CCoE

We work with customers to set up CCoEs, providing them with the skills and tool kit to make it an integral part of business decision-making.

Managed services automation

Our managed service automation streamlines and speeds up IT tasks. Benefits include improved productivity, boosted service quality, and expedited processes.

Orange Business Services expertise

- 15 years of experience operating private, public, and pan-European sovereign clouds
- 2,500 Orange Cyberdefense experts, 5,500 SDx experts and 2,600 cloud experts
- 3,900 data and artificial intelligence experts
- 700 developers, integrators and digital and IoT experts
- 800 expert integrators of communications and collaboration solutions
- Specific tools and technicians skilled in connectivity, multicloud networking, and security
- Global reach and local care capabilities in 220 countries and territories

- 24 x 7 cloud support via five major service centers across the globe
- Business practices with in-depth knowledge of big data and analytics, AI, ML, IoT
- Extensive experience in designing, building, and running digital infrastructure and cloud solutions
- Orange participates in the development of European standards, including GAIA-X, HLEG AI, 3IA, HLEG on AI
- Orange Business Services is an AWS Advanced Consulting Partner with the AWS Direct Connect Service Delivery and the capacity to address AWS cloud transformation needs on a global scale

We provide a modular approach to managing your multicloud estate, so you choose the services most relevant to your business needs. We can integrate, operate and support your cloud applications 24/7. To find more about how we can help you get more value from your cloud estate, contact us here **https://www.orange-business.com/en/any-request**

1. IDC FutureScape: Worldwide Cloud 2022 Predictions
2. Gartner: Execute Your Cloud Strategy With a Cloud Center of Excellence

orange™

Business Services

aws PARTNER Advanced Tier Services