



# Establishing a Strong Cloud Ecosystem

Ensuring lasting business outcomes  
from your cloud investment.

**A business may decide to migrate to cloud, or transform their existing stack, due to many factors, including:**

- Capitalizing on a new commercial opportunity
- M&A
- Expiring legacy contracts
- Wider economic or social changes such as those imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic

This checklist is aimed to assist those who may have made the wider strategic decision to invest in cloud, and now need guidance on translating this broad commitment into an outcome that provides lasting business value.

Every business has a different context for their cloud transformation, so some of the following aspects of establishing a cloud ecosystem will be more or less important to your case. All are worth considering.



**Print this checklist out**



**Tick each item as your team completes the task**

# Plan

*These steps should be completed before the build phase*

## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT

Assess how cloud platform(s) will best suit the business needs

## SCOPING

Determine any time commitments or constraints

Identify applications and databases that need to be optimized for cloud

For each that will be optimized, identify the target state

Understand the data requirements of your applications

Determine how often we need to access this data, and how this will be controlled

Plan for integrating existing/external services

Understand availability and performance requirements of your applications

Create schedule around these windows and communicate this schedule to stakeholders within the business

Determine multi-account strategy: is it to be a workload per account, by department, or by environment?

## OPERATIONS

Determine metrics to measure system reliability

Consider any disaster recovery implications

Establish plan for incident management

Determine acceptable business outage windows

## PEOPLE

Establish a team to build and maintain the cloud ecosystem

If not currently available, hire them or contract them, or consider tools to automate processes

Brief stakeholders on key information related to the ecosystem: explain how the cloud will cater to their needs and fit into their work-flows, and otherwise obtain their buy-in

## **COST**

- Establish finance model for the cloud
- Estimate projected spend based on current utilization patterns
- Consider how to monitor and optimize costs on an ongoing basis
- Establish a resource tag policy

## **RISK**

- Engage your security team early to ensure all security requirements are captured
- Determine how cloud fits into your risk management framework
- Establish and test the Disaster Recovery Plan
- Establish to which existing compliance standards your organization is subject

# Build

*These are the things you need to establish from the start*

## HARDENED, SECURE ACCOUNTS

- Establish a process for ensuring every account is secure and compliant
- Ensure practices align with the AWS Well-Architected Framework and relevant compliance standards
- Centralize security operations using tools like GuardDuty and CloudWatch

## LOGGING

- Create a dedicated logging account
- Enable CloudTrail, AWS Config, SSM session logging and configure for the AWS account structure to capture logs regarding changes to resources and user activity across all accounts

## GUARDRAILS

- Set policies and create processes to prevent accidental or intentional misuse of your cloud services

## DEPLOYMENTS

- Establish a repeatable deployment process for infrastructure packages across multiple accounts

## IDENTITY AND ACCESS MANAGEMENT

- Establish rules and a process for managing access and permission levels for various roles (e.g. engineers and other team members)

## NETWORK CONFIGURATION

- Design a network architecture to ensure secure connectivity to cloud workloads (and on-premise workloads if needed) and can be easily managed when demand for network resources increase
- Confirm whether and how we will configure networks within the deadline

# Maintain

*Your cloud ecosystem needs to be maintained and kept updated, and solutions established for cost and risk management. Maintaining your ecosystem means improved security and compliance, and helps to ensure consistently high-velocity delivery.*

## OPERATIONS

- Establish a support solution
- Implement monitoring and alerting based on metrics you defined during the plan phase
- Establish a re-charge/cost distribution solution
- Make sure it can accurately forecast and track costs
- Determine how to apportion costs to other areas of the business

## MAINTENANCE

- Create a process for keeping your cloud environment up-to-date with best practices and continuously improve security
- Make sure your cloud environment takes advantage of the latest services released by AWS
- Keep your cloud practices consistent across all teams who use the platform
- Ensure you can track the versions of workloads you've deployed

## COST MONITORING AND OPTIMIZATION

- Identify areas where resources are being used in an inefficient way, or wasted spend can be reduced
- Optimize your use of resources and respond appropriately to unexpected increases in cost

## COMPLIANCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT

- Track how well resources are meeting compliance requirements
- Respond appropriately to deviations in compliance standards

# Establish a secure, managed ecosystem for AWS with Stax

Stax provides an enterprise-grade production-ready platform engineered according to AWS best-practice, that can be ready for you to build on in just a few days.

With prefabricated patterns and proactive guardrails to automate cloud operations, your team can focus on building your applications rather than operationalizing your foundations.

If your organization is considering a cloud migration or cloud transformation, Stax will help you start strong and stay strong.

[SCHEDULE A DEMO AT STAX.IO](#)

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