CLOUD
GLOSSARY OF TERMS

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Cloud technology has become an integral part of modern business and daily life, yet it also brings a language of its own. We help you get up to speed with our Cloud Glossary. We've listed some of the most common cloud terms from A to Z and there's also a dedicated section to AWS Cloud jargon. Bookmark this Cloud Glossary as a handy guide to help you navigate important conversations about the cloud and your business with confidence.

GLOSSARY SUMMARY

GENERAL CLOUD TERMS

TERM	DEFINITION
A	
AGILE METHODOLOGY	An iterative approach to software development and project management that prioritises flexibility and customer feedback.
API (APPLICATION PROGRAMMING INTERFACE)	A set of rules and tools for building software and applications.
APPLICATIONS	Software programs designed to help users perform specific tasks or processes.
AUSTRALIAN SIGNALS DIRECTORATE (ASD) FRAMEWORK	Guidelines set by the Australian government agency for cyber security and information warfare. Read more.
AVAILABILITY ZONES (AZs)	Isolated locations within data centre regions from which public cloud services originate, offering users the ability to run instances in several locations for backup and failover purposes.
C	
CLOUD ADOPTION	The strategy and steps an organisation take to transition its operations or services into a cloud environment.
CLOUD BURSTING	An application deployment model in which an application primarily runs in a private cloud or data centre and bursts into a public cloud when the demand for computing capacity spikes.
CLOUD COMPLIANCE	Ensuring that cloud-based resources adhere to industry regulations and standards.
CLOUD COMPUTING	The delivery of various services over the internet, such as storage, databases, servers, networking, software, analytics, and intelligence.
CLOUD COST MANAGEMENT	The process and strategies used to monitor, analyse, and reduce cloud expenses.
CLOUD ECONOMICS	The principles and studies of cost efficiency and scalability related to cloud computing.
CLOUD ENVIRONMENT	A set of infrastructure, platforms, and applications provided and managed through cloud computing.
CLOUD MANAGEMENT PLATFORM (CMP)	A suite of tools used to manage cloud resources in a multi-cloud environment. It provides functionalities like self-service provisioning, monitoring, automation, and analytics.
CLOUD MIGRATION	The process of moving digital assets, applications, data and other resources from on-site servers or data centres to the cloud.
CLOUD NATIVE	Applications or services designed specifically to run in a cloud environment, and take full advantage of cloud architecture, services, and benefits.
CLOUD OPERATING MODEL	A framework that outlines how cloud services are managed and operated within an organisation.
CLOUD OPTIMISATION	The process of adjusting and enhancing cloud deployments to improve efficiency, reduce costs, and meet specific business objectives.
CLOUD READINESS ASSESSMENT	An evaluation to determine an organisation's ability and suitability to migrate to the cloud.
CLOUD SECURITY	Measures and processes to protect cloud-based data, applications, and infrastructure from threats.
CLOUD SERVICE PROVIDER	A company offering some component of cloud computing, typically infrastructure, platforms, or software as a service.

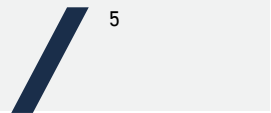| TERM	DEFINITION
CONFIGURATION MANAGEMENT DATABASE (CMDB)	A database used to store information about all technical components of an information system.
CONSUMPTION BASED PRICING	A pricing model where customers pay according to their usage of a service rather than a fixed cost.
CONTAINER	A lightweight, stand-alone, executable software package that includes everything needed to run a piece of software, including the code, runtime, system tools, and libraries.
CONTENT DELIVERY NETWORK (CDN)	A system of distributed servers that deliver web content and web services to users based on their geographic location, ensuring faster load times and high availability.
D	
DATA CENTRE	A large group of interconnected servers used to store, process, and manage vast amounts of data.
DEVOPS	A set of practices and cultural philosophies that aim to improve collaboration between software development (Dev) and IT operations (Ops).
DISASTER RECOVERY	Strategies and processes that ensure the continuation or recovery of vital technology infrastructure and systems following a disaster.
E	
EDGE COMPUTING	A distributed computing paradigm that brings computation and data storage closer to the sources of data, often for reasons of speed and efficiency.
ELASTICITY	The ability of a cloud service to scale out or in based on demand.
H	
HYBRID CLOUD	An integrated cloud solution combining private and public cloud structures.
HYPERSCALE PROVIDER	A company that provides vast scale cloud infrastructure and platform services, such as Amazon Web Services, Microsoft Azure, or Google Cloud Platform.
I	
IAAS (INFRASTRUCTURE AS A SERVICE)	A cloud service model that provides virtualised computing resources over the internet.
IDENTITY & ACCESS MANAGEMENT	Systems and processes used to control who can access what within an organisation's network.
INFRASTRUCTURE	The foundational hardware and software components that support cloud computing.
INSTANCE TYPES	Specific configurations of the central processing unit (CPU), memory, storage, and networking capacity for virtual servers in the cloud.
IT ASSET INVENTORY	A comprehensive list w all IT assets (hardware, software, and data) within an organisation.
L	
LEAN METHODOLOGY	A production principle emphasising the elimination of waste in all forms and maximising value to the customer.
LOAD BALANCING	The distribution of incoming traffic across multiple servers to ensure even workload distribution, optimal resource utilisation, and high availability.
LOGGING	The act of keeping records of events, transactions, or processes in a system or network.

TERM	DEFINITION
M	
MULTI-CLOUD	The use of multiple cloud computing and storage services from different cloud vendors within a single network architecture.
MULTI-TENANCY	A reference to multiple users or tenants sharing the same resources in a software application or cloud service but remaining distinct from one another.
N	
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY (NIST) FRAMEWORK	A set of standards and best practices for organisations to manage and reduce cyber security risks. Read more.
NETWORKING	The practice of connecting computers and other devices together to share resources.
O	
ON-PREMISES	Refers to IT resources being housed within an organisation's own physical location, rather than in the cloud.
ORGANISATIONAL CHANGE MANAGEMENT (OCM) PLAN	A structured approach to transition individuals, teams, and organisations from a current state to a desired future state.
P	
PAAS (PLATFORM AS A SERVICE)	A cloud service model that provides a platform allowing customers to develop, run, and manage applications without the complexity of building and maintaining the infrastructure.
PRIVATE CLOUD	Cloud resources used exclusively by a single organisation, either hosted by a third party or maintained on-premises.
PUBLIC CLOUD	A cloud environment owned and managed by third-party cloud service providers where storage and other services are provided over the internet.
R	
RAPID FRAMEWORK	A framework used to assign the people or roles involved with an organisation's decision-making process. The RAPID acronym stands for Recommend, Agree, Perform, Input, and Decide.
RASCI FRAMEWORK	A responsibility matrix defining the roles of Responsible, Accountable, Supportive, Consulted, and Informed.
REPATRIATION	The act of moving applications and data services from a public cloud back to a private cloud or on-premises data centre.
RESILIENCE	The ability of cloud services to recover quickly and continue operating even when there has been an equipment failure, power outage, or other disruptions.
RESOURCE	A generic term for any component that can be provisioned or managed in the cloud, including virtual machines, databases, storage, or applications.
S	
SAAS (SOFTWARE AS A SERVICE)	A cloud service model that delivers software applications over the internet, on-demand, and typically on a subscription basis.
SCALABILITY	The ability of a cloud solution to handle growth or contraction in usage and demand without compromising performance.
SCRUM METHODOLOGY	An agile framework for managing projects, with an emphasis on software development.
SERVERLESS COMPUTING	A cloud-computing model which can reduce complexity in deploying code into production. The cloud provider runs the server, and dynamically manages the allocation of machine resources.

TERM	DEFINITION
SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT (SLA)	A contract between a service provider and the end user that specifies the level of service expected during the term of the contract.
SHARED RESOURCES	Computing resources that are used by multiple users or applications simultaneously in a cloud environment.
SHARED RESPONSIBILITY MODEL	A framework where cloud service providers and cloud users must each assume responsibility for specific aspects of security and compliance.
STORAGE	A service that allows users to save data by transferring it over the internet to a remote database.
V	
VENDOR LOCK-IN	A situation in which an organisation is heavily dependent on a single cloud service provider technology and cannot easily transition to another vendor without significant costs, time, or effort.
VIRTUAL PRIVATE CLOUD (VPC)	An on-demand configurable pool of shared computing resources allocated within a public cloud environment, but isolated using private IP addresses, and providing a level of security comparable to a private cloud.
VIRTUAL MACHINE (VM)	An emulation of a computer system based on computer architecture and functions of a real or hypothetical computer.
W	
WORKLOADS	The amount of processing that the system is conducting, often referred to in terms of virtual machines or applications.

AMAZON WEB SERVICES (AWS) CLOUD TERMS

TERM	DEFINITION
7 Rs MIGRATION STRATEGIES	AWS uses seven migration strategies for moving applications to the AWS Cloud, known as the 7 Rs: Retire, Retain, Rehost, Relocate, Repurchase, Replatform & Refactor or Re-architect. Read more.
AWS ACCOUNT STRUCTURE	The organisational structure of AWS accounts that help manage and monitor resources and spending. Read more.
AWS CERTIFICATION	Official certification provided by AWS to individuals to validate their cloud expertise and knowledge on various AWS services. Read more.
AWS CERTIFIED CONSULTANTS	Professionals who have achieved specific AWS certifications and can provide expert advice on AWS deployment, management, and operations.
AWS CLOUD ADOPTION FRAMEWORK (CAF)	A guidance tool that provides best practices and a structured approach to help organisations move to the cloud. Read more.
AWS CLOUD ADOPTION FRAMEWORK'S 6 PERSPECTIVES	The six focus areas in the AWS CAF that represent an organisation's cloud transformation journey: Business, People, Governance, Platform, Operations and Security. Read more.
AWS CLOUD SERVICES	A suite of services provided by AWS that offer computing power, storage, content delivery, database analytics, networking, and other functionalities that help businesses scale and grow. Read more.
AWS LANDING ZONE	A set of best practices and guidelines for setting up an AWS environment, which includes setting up an account structure, network design, access management, and more. Read more. Case Study: AWS landing zone rebuild preps education provider for massive data centre exit
AWS PRESCRIPTIVE GUIDANCE	Provides time-tested strategies, guides, and patterns to help accelerate a cloud migration or modernisation journey. Read more.
AWS REGIONS	Geographical areas around the world where AWS has data centres. Each region consists of multiple isolated locations known as availability zones. Read more.
AWS' SECURITY BY DESIGN	A proactive approach to cloud security that integrates security measures into the AWS environment, allowing organisations to identify and mitigate threats early. Read more.
AWS SPECIALTY COMPETENCIES	Recognitions given to AWS partners for their specialised knowledge and proficiency in particular areas like networking, content delivery, or big data.
AMAZON WEB SERVICES (AWS)	A hyperscale cloud provider, delivering on-demand cloud computing platforms and APIs to individuals, companies, and governments, on a metered pay-as-you-go basis. Read more.
AWS WELL-ARCHITECTED FRAMEWORK REVIEW (WAFR)	A set of guiding principles and best practices to help cloud architects build secure, high-performing, resilient, and efficient applications using AWS. The review takes a systematic approach to evaluate architectures and implement designs that will scale over time. Read more.
AWS WELL-ARCHITECTED FRAMEWORK REVIEW'S 6 PILLARS	The 6 focus areas of AWS WAFR include Operational Excellence, Security, Reliability, Performance Efficiency, and Cost Optimisation. Read more.

TERM	DEFINITION
EXPERIENCE-BASED ACCELERATION (EBA)	A strategy to speed up migration processes based on previously gained experience and knowledge. Read more.
MIGRATION ACCELERATION PROGRAM (MAP)	An AWS initiative designed to help businesses achieve their migration objectives faster by offering expertise, tools, and best practices. Read more.
MIGRATION ACCELERATION PROGRAM FUNDING	Financial incentives provided by AWS under the MAP initiative to support and reduce the costs of cloud migrations.
MIGRATION EVALUATOR (ME)	An AWS tool that helps analyse on-premises workloads and provides insights for cost-effective cloud migration. Read more.
MIGRATION PORTFOLIO ANALYSIS (MPA)	An assessment that evaluates an organisation's IT portfolio to determine which applications are suitable for migration to the cloud. Read more.
MIGRATION READINESS ASSESSMENT (MRA)	A review process that evaluates an organisation's readiness to undertake a large-scale migration to AWS. Read more.
MIGRATION READINESS AND PLANNING (MRP)	A phase in the migration process that involves the creation of a detailed migration plan after the readiness assessment. Read more.
VMWARE CLOUD ON AWS	A hybrid cloud solution that lets you use the same VMware technologies across both on-premises environments and the AWS cloud. Read more. Case study: VMWare Cloud on AWS enables swift cloud transformation