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Four Important Stops Along Your Journey to the Cloud

How to avoid roadblocks that can slow adoption
as you make your way to improved agility

ALL ROADS LEAD TO THE CLOUD

The benefits of moving workloads to the cloud are no secret. Cloud services are proven to reduce IT overhead costs by 30-40 %,[1] not to mention help you scale IT processes up and down, improve flexibility to meet shifting business needs, increase the quality of service, and provide instant access to new capabilities.

[1]Source: McKinsey's Cloud Adoption to Accelerate IT Modernization

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BUT ROADBLOCKS SLOW ADOPTION

While the promises of the cloud are enticing, getting there is not always easy. In fact, the average enterprise has achieved less than 20% public or private cloud adoption.[1]

Why?

Simply moving traditional applications to the cloud will not magically deliver all of the dynamic features expected—in reality creating somewhat dampened expectations.

There are some bumps you might feel along the way.

[1]Source: McKinsey's Cloud Adoption to Accelerate IT Modernization

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BREAKING DOWN THE ROADBLOCKS

There are **4 important milestones** to reach along your cloud journey to ensure a smooth ride as you bypass those roadblocks. Buckle up as we dive into each one!

1: STRATEGY

Let's start at your first stop: **set the strategy and create a roadmap.**

Just like you'd approach any excursion, you need to know where you are today and where you want to go.

+ What do you need to accomplish tomorrow that you can't accomplish today?

+ What are your business specific requirements and desired outcomes?

+ Why is the cloud being evaluated?

+ Review the technical requirements to support your desired business outcome.

+ Perform an analysis of the applications and all dependencies.

+ Summarize an evaluation of cloud readiness for the applications in scope.

+ Evaluate your organizational readiness for cloud adoption.

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2: PLATFORMS

Once you've set your strategy and have devised a roadmap, it's time to **select your cloud platforms.**

Once you know your business and technical requirements, you are ready to select the appropriate platform(s) for your applications. Some potential choices include:

+ Private cloud in data center

+ Public cloud

+ Other third-party cloud providers

And remember, once you have users accessing applications in multiple locations (data center, multiple cloud platforms, etc.), you have entered the multi-cloud realm and need to plan appropriately. More on this next.

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PIT STOP AT MULTI-CLOUD

If cloud weren't complex enough, now we enter the realm of multi-cloud. The 2019 RightScale State of the Cloud Report found that 84% of enterprises had a multi-cloud strategy—so it's certainly the direction in which most of us are headed (or are already there).

Having the ability to leverage multiple cloud platforms delivers powerful benefits in terms of agility and cost effectiveness. But it also introduces complexities for IT organizations that must deliver these cloud services with high availability, predictable performance, complete control and visibility, and governance and compliance…all without breaking the bank.

These are all important considerations as you create a cloud-enabled enterprise foundation that can support your needs today—and those of tomorrow.

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3 : EXECUTION

Ok, back to our four stops along your cloud journey.
Once you've set your strategy/roadmap and have
selected your cloud platforms, your next step is
foundational design and migration.

There are several considerations at this stage.

+ Build your enterprise cloud foundation focused on networking, security,
  identity and access management, and data protection.

+ Determine your migration strategy – Lift and shift as-is? Embrace microservices
  and containerize? Re-factor to maximize cloud-native capabilities?

+ Adopt orchestration and automation both within, and across, cloud platforms.

+ Establish a plan for Day 2 cloud operations in preparation for
  management of your new platforms.

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4: OPERATIONS

Once your workloads are running in the cloud, your journey has just begun. We've reached our last stop in your cloud journey—**ongoing management and optimization** in the cloud—which is very different than in a traditional data center.

At this stage, it's important to review:

+ **Cost optimization**—Companies without a continuous cost optimization strategy are wasting an average of 35% of their cloud spend.[1]

+ **Best practices reviews**—Cloud evolves at a rapid rate, and best practices must be continuously reviewed.

+ **Security optimization**—With a constantly changing threat landscape, continuous optimization of your security posture is critical.

+ **Application modernization**—For applications that were not modernized at the time of migration, an ongoing review of re-factoring opportunities will help you get the most out of the cloud.

+ **People, process, and tools**—New skills and tools are needed to properly manage a cloud deployment. Continuing education and maturation of tools is a key piece in effective cloud management.

[1]2019 RightScale State of the Cloud Report

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A TRUSTED PARTNER WITH YOU AT EVERY STOP—AND IN BETWEEN

This all sounds extremely complicated, doesn't it?

The advent of public cloud services has created the most confusing time in recent technology history. Everyone wants to "go to the cloud," but most lack a cohesive strategy with which all business stakeholders agree. Confusion of cloud benefits, complexities of cloud migrations, and security concerns are only a few of the roadblocks that frequently show up on the journey.

The good news is that you're not alone on this cloud journey.

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Cloud Adoption Lifecycle: The team at ePlus brings a combination of expertise across both data center and cloud platforms, the networking and security components that tie them together in a multi-cloud deployment, and application modernization to maximize the benefits of cloud. We have developed our Cloud Adoption Lifecycle methodology to align with your journey to the cloud.

STRATEGY

CREATE YOUR CLOUD ROADMAP

Business Outcome Mapping
Roadmap and Strategy
Application Analysis
Application Dependency Mapping
Cloud Readiness
Cloud Center of Excellence (CCOE)

OPERATIONS

MANAGE AND OPTIMIZE

Cost Optimization
Best Practices Reviews
Security Optimization
Ongoing Application Modernization
Tools and Processes
Ongoing Education

PLATFORMS

SELECT YOUR CLOUD PLATFORM

Data Center/Private Cloud
Public Cloud (AWS, Azure, GCP)
Third-Party Cloud Services
Multi-Cloud Architecture

EXECUTION

DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT

Foundational Cloud Design
Multi-Cloud Connectivity Design
Hybrid Cloud Data Protection
DevOps/Application Modernization
Migration
Orchestration and Automation
Day 2 Cloud Operations

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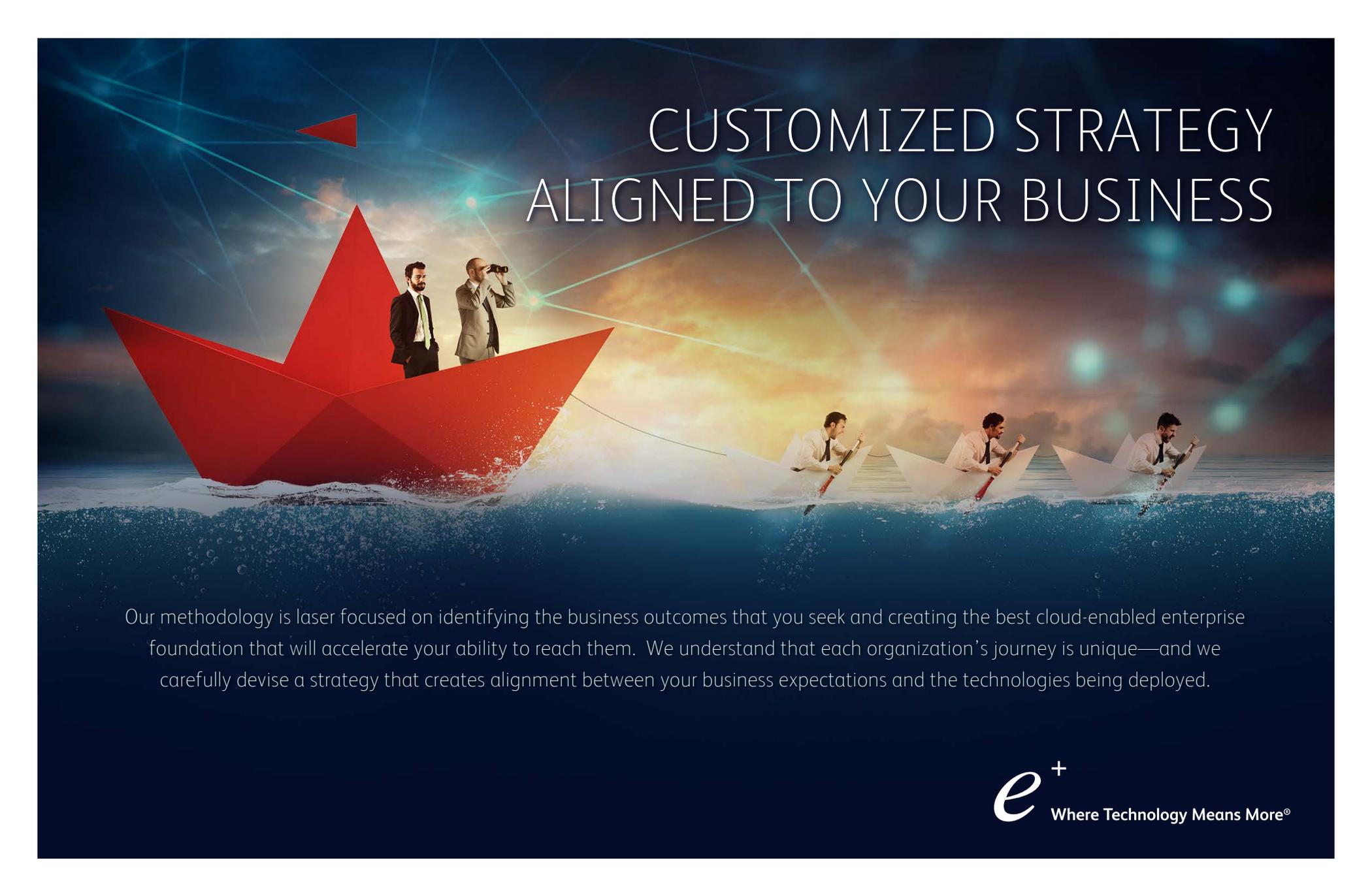
CUSTOMIZED STRATEGY ALIGNED TO YOUR BUSINESS

Our methodology is laser focused on identifying the business outcomes that you seek and creating the best cloud-enabled enterprise foundation that will accelerate your ability to reach them. We understand that each organization's journey is unique—and we carefully devise a strategy that creates alignment between your business expectations and the technologies being deployed.

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ELEVATE YOUR EXPECTATIONS

If you approach your cloud journey with a clear understanding of what to expect at each stop—you will be better equipped to drive the outcomes your business requires. With ePlus as your copilot, we can guide you every step of the way to achieve:

+ A well-defined organizational cloud strategy that has buy-in from executives to line-of-business owners to IT

+ The ability to leverage a cloud-enabled enterprise foundation, giving your business access to capabilities and cost models unavailable today

+ A cloud deployment optimized for cost, high availability, performance, and security

+ Full control and visibility of applications and data running in the cloud

+ An ongoing defined methodology for assessing the cloud readiness of your applications

Ready to redefine your cloud journey and speed your way to improved agility?

Your copilot awaits—contact ePlus today.

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LET'S DO THIS!

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