# Cloud Ready: A Cloud Strategy for the Rest of Us *EDUCAUSE 2017*

# Cloud strategies

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| **Cloud First** | Progressive shift away from on-premises infrastructure for all services, including enterprise services. When seeking a new solution or it is time to upgrade or replace an old service you will look for a cloud-based answer first.  If there is a SaaS solution, that is typically the first choice. If no appropriate SaaS can be found and you decide to build rather than buy, PaaS would be the first choice. IaaS is fallback if there are fundamental requirements to build from the metal up. Last choice would be to build it on premises. |
| **Opportunistic Cloud** | Rather than an overarching direction this is more selective. You target specific projects for the cloud. Your criteria might be cost, lesser concern about data, opportunity for innovation, etc.  This usually results in a ready acceptance of SaaS, tepid forays into PaaS and IaaS projects that can only be achieved in the cloud. |
| **Experimental Cloud** | A conservative, “toe-in-the-water” approach targeting uncontroversial, low-risk projects which can provide lessons but have minimal impact, positive or negative.  Institutions with this strategy may join adopt SaaS agreements that have very broad buy-in from other universities. Likely no production work in PaaS and IaaS due to security concerns and lack of sufficient local knowledge of cloud. |
| **Cloud Skeptic** | Not an absolute “no-cloud, no-way” stance, but very close.  You might sign on for some SaaS solutions but with aggressive security, limited functionality and likely less than full potential ROI. PaaS and IaaS are likely non-starters. |

# Notes

# Stakeholders and their feelings about the cloud

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| **Role** | **Anti-cloud** | **Pro-cloud** |
| **Security Team** | * Local data center, controls and testing tools are familiar. * Concerns about developers not understanding security controls and putting data and systems at risk. | * Excellent physical security controls * Advanced and powerful security and monitoring systems included with public cloud vendor tools. They just need to be learned. |
| **Data Steward** | * Concerns about data being off-prem. * Data not controlled by institution. SaaS also removes departmental control of data. | * Potential for greater consistency and standards across systems if governance can be established. |
| **Developer Lead** | * Familiar tools and personnel controlling the full development stack. * Lack of time, or simple reluctance to learn new ways of architecting applications. | * Greater control and predictability with powerful new tools and rapid provisioning. * Working in an exciting environment, with cutting-edge tools and learning lucrative skills. It’s where the action is in IT these days. |
| **Support Team** | * A new place and way for users to work means disruption to an already full stack of services to support. * Tier 3 is outside of university control. | * Vended tools have a higher bar of usability are generally more intuitive due to larger audience. * Vendor often has extensive documentation and some level of support. |
| **Procurement** | * Greater complexity of contracts due to account, coverage and data issues. | * Gives Procurement expanded and critical role in ensuring business objectives are met. |
| **Legal** | * Potential for FISA requests coming to cloud provider. * Greater volume of contracts to review as well as increased complexity due to data issues. | * Leveraging work of many other institutions helps create stronger outcomes. |
| **Infrastructure Architect** | * Years of patient work to create current architecture threatened. * Fundamental infrastructure building blocks changed. | * Greater control and predictability with powerful new tools. * It’s where the action is in IT these days. Working in an exciting environment and learning lucrative skills. |
| **Network Engineer** | * Familiar tools and greater sense of control locally. * If not constructing a full campus network in a virtual private loud, the administrative overhead of individual VPNs is unsustainable. | * Greater flexibility and opportunity for automation. * More applications will stand on their own so fewer will need a connection to the university network. |
| **Departmental IT** | * SaaS often means loss of local control and direct user support. | * Chance of getting well-developed and supported solution to local problem. * IaaS and PaaS often give greater local control, sometimes allowing the department to bypass central IT |

# Presenters

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