



eBook:

READY FOR A LEADERSHIP-DRIVEN DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION?

5 real-world lessons from the C-suite
to apply to your digital transformation

OUTPACE YOUR COMPETITORS TO THE CLOUD WITH NORDCLOUD AND MICROSOFT AZURE

Public clouds like Microsoft Azure are the key enabler for hyper-agile business processes and app development. A successful move to the cloud has the potential to accelerate an organisation's ability to push out digital innovation 50-100 times faster than traditional approaches.¹

Wherever you are on the path to transformation, the following five real-world lessons will give your leadership team an 'out of the gate and running' lead over the competition.

“By 2025, 55% of large enterprises will successfully implement an all-in cloud strategy.”²

— Gartner

1

UNCOMFORTABLE CHANGE AND SHORT-TERM LOSSES LEADS TO LONG-TERM GAIN

You're leading your organisation on the move to the public cloud and a digital transformation is underway. Along the way, employees will resist change, processes will evolve, and some valued customers may not like the new ways of transacting. Plan for some bumps in the road: unhappy internal teams, pushback on change, and customer disruption when implementing new digital innovations.

Ease transitional growing pains by demonstrating how the new company vision will benefit employees and customers alike. Lay out a roadmap for how everyone can contribute to the success of your cloud transformation strategy.

Then start acting on that strategy by:

- Highlighting mandates from other business units that will benefit from scalability and agility.
- Removing legacy roadblocks that are impeding progress—there's no shortage of cloud-native solutions and guidance on how to embrace an agile mindset.
- Including goals of finance, HR, operations, and customer success when developing a cloud strategy.
- Quickly adapting to market changes to retain existing customers and claim market share from competitors.
- Partnering with an experienced public cloud solution provider, which can be the difference between success or failure from a public cloud transformation initiative. Nordcloud—a leading provider of end-to-end multi-cloud solutions—has helped 1,000+ enterprises move from legacy IT to an agile, secure, scalable, cloud-native ecosystem.

“ The word transformational is often used in IT, however, it is rarely delivered. Nordcloud has delivered a transformational service, turning the traditional model on its head. They collaborated extensively through the design stage then architected a solution that is efficient, responsive, cost-effective, and transcends our entire technology stack.³ ”

— Will Blake

Director of Technology & Analytics, CRU

2

CLOUD TRAINING AND EDUCATION CAN PREVENT COSTLY NEW HIRES AND OUTSOURCING

Some of your on-premises systems that employees rely on daily to do their job such as ERP, CRM, and supply chains may be disrupted when being migrated to the cloud, causing employee confusion and resentment.

Also, fear of becoming irrelevant, not having the right skill set, and being made redundant in the new, cloud-everything company environment can cause current employees to push back. Change is hard so expect some resistance to new, radically-different company processes they are required to adjust to.

“70% of tech workers say they lack mastery over the skills they need to do their job.”⁴

HR, education, and training teams should take an active role by cultivating cloud-centric skills in employees motivated to excel and providing ongoing support during the transition—to prevent employee discontent and upheaval. Nordcloud Talent Acceleration offers training for cloud engineers and other specialists to help organizations upskill employees.⁵





“The biggest pitfall in cloud adoption? Running cloud IT the same as a legacy IT model.”

— Nordcloud

3

IT-LED CLOUD INITIATIVES ONLY HAVE IT-FOCUSED OUTCOMES AND RESULTS

IT lift and shift from on-premises to the cloud is becoming a relic of the past. And is one of the primary reasons a hybrid public cloud initiative fails. What's needed is a shift from outdated IT models to a focus on new, scalable cloud infrastructure and platforms.

Gartner estimates less than one-third of enterprises have a high-level documented cloud strategy.⁶ Not having a strategy that aligns with forward-thinking business objectives and CIO's that view cloud adoption as simply adopting a new set of technologies—rather than a cloud service with unlimited potential—leads to disappointment and unfulfilled cloud ambitions.


4

COMPLIANCE AND REGULATIONS ARE NOT AS BAD AS YOU THINK

Compliance and regulation—and how the rules seem to constantly change—scares enterprises into non-action or reaction, yet are often over-analyzed. As well, business units that are traditionally resistant to change often use compliance and regulation issues as a stall tactic.

Cloud vendors like Nordcloud and Microsoft Azure have a vested interest in being compliant with all regulations and invest heavily in proactive measures for day zero enforcement—so their customers are never put in a risky situation.

Remember you are not the first to deal with this—follow the model, blueprints, reference architectures, and recommended partner expertise.



Microsoft Azure
Proof Point

“ The European division of a US-based company needs to comply with GDPR regulations by protecting customer data in a database that supports UK operations. The existing version of SQL didn't support the necessary row level security and an in-place upgrade would have been too disruptive. Using Azure SQL to replicate and upgrade the database, the customer adds the necessary compliance measure in a matter of weeks.”

5

INCUMBENT ISV'S, MSP'S, AND SI'S MAY NOT BE THE RIGHT PARTNER FOR CLOUD TRANSFORMATION

Unless your company was born in the cloud, it runs on existing software and hardware platforms and is managed by a mix of in-house and outsourced IT. Your partners are an integral part of your business and know the inner workings of your mission critical workflows like CRM, ERP, and supply chains.

But don't be surprised if your ISV, MSP, or SI partners want a piece of your cloud transformation pie. They have a lot at stake and may steer it in the most favorable direction for them, intentionally trying to block and slow down your agile transformation.

Legacy vendors have a vested interest in:

- Keeping your existing IT on their platforms at all cost, thwarting your move to the cloud.
- Approaching it from too narrow of a point of view, so you stay with proprietary services.
- Focusing on moving their pieces to the cloud, limiting the full transformation of your business.
- Failing to get stakeholder alignment from business units they don't regularly interact with, adding unnecessary risks and complexity.

“ A company-wide cloud transformation is an entirely different undertaking than moving a single app or workload to the cloud. It takes as much technical know-how as it does business acumen to uncover the true strategy, build consensus, and realize a multi-year vision. ”

— **Paul Hudspeth**
Senior Cloud Architect, Nordcloud

Going with a specialized vendor or partner with limited cloud experience is not going to give the same results as working with a cloud expert, who knows when to bring in your specialists for their areas of expertise.

Also, the ability to scale on demand and pay-as-you-go payment structure of a 100% cloud-native transformational partner like Nordcloud gives many organizations the flexibility and control they need to transition from on-premises to a hybrid cloud solution.

OUTPACE THE COMPETITION WITH A **NORDCLOUD** AND **MICROSOFT AZURE** PUBLIC CLOUD TRANSFORMATION

Traditional IT is designed to be slow and stable, but that also makes it a bottleneck for agile digital transformation. Public cloud combined with agile processes allow an enterprise to increase the speed of change both for technology assets and product development. Partnering with an experienced public cloud solution provider can be the difference between success or failure from a public cloud transformation initiative.

Nordcloud—a leading provider of end-to-end multi-cloud solutions—has helped 1,000+ enterprises move from legacy IT to an agile, secure, scalable, cloud-native ecosystem.

Nordcloud is a Microsoft Gold Cloud Partner and Azure Expert Managed Services provider. Microsoft Azure offers compute, analytics, mobile, database, storage, web, and networking enabling faster cloud adoption and innovation.

Gold

Microsoft Partner
Azure Expert MSP



Azure supports the broadest selection of operating systems, programming languages, frameworks, tools, and ecosystem partners that millions of developers and IT professionals already rely on and trust.

Nordcloud and Azure deliver comprehensive public cloud solutions with sophisticated IT infrastructures so enterprises can reap the full benefits of cloud transformation: faster development, faster data, and faster time to market with new digital products.



Transform with Nordcloud and
Microsoft Azure starting today.

Learn more at nordcloud.com.



Gold
Microsoft Partner
Azure Expert MSP
 Microsoft

Sources:

¹<https://www.idc.com/getdoc.jsp?containerId=prUS44417618>

²https://www.gartner.com/imagesrv/books/cloud/cloud_strategy_leadership.pdf

³https://nordcloud.com/case_studies/moving-from-a-traditional-data-centre-to-gain-the-benefits-of-the-azure-cloud-platform/

⁴<https://www.gartner.com/smarterwithgartner/mobilize-every-function-in-the-organization-for-digitalization/>

⁵<https://www.gartner.com/smarterwithgartner/mobilize-every-function-in-the-organization-for-digitali>

⁶https://www.gartner.com/imagesrv/books/cloud/cloud_strategy_leadership.pdf

⁷<https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/architecture/cloud-adoption/business-strategy/business-outcomes/agility-outcomes>