How to Choose a Cloud Provider in 5 Easy Steps

Step 01

Check the provider's security approach

This step includes data security, data governance, or business policies. And, of course, their compliance with your company's legal obligations f.ex. HIPAA, FDA, ISO, or GDPA.

Look for a provider accredited with certifications like ISO 27001 or other security standards relevant for your business.

Step 02

Ask about the platform and services roadmap

Verify the provider's approach and offering, especially in crucial areas for your enterprise. That may include various topics, like SLA assurance. Ask about the cloud implementation roadmap, enabling initiatives for further development, architecture, and engineering. Some public cloud providers offer only limited support.

Step 03

Do not forget about money

Make sure you know pricing models, service usage costs, and maintenance. Pricing variables are based on the period of usage, and some providers allow discounts for more extended contracts.

You should only be paying for what you are using. Beware of upfront charges, which are not typical of cloud providers.

Step 04

Find the best architecture

The biggest providers (like Amazon, Microsoft, or Google) offer different methods of implementing the cloud into workflows and ways of integration and consolidation. On the other hand, they all follow market trends such as serverless applications, API-based connectivity, etc.

Step 05

Get the proper migration support

From the vendor's lock-in to exit planning - every step should be clear and supported. But migration requires more than just adequate assistance. Demand all possible scenarios for the coming years of your business's development, with options of changing scope, service, or provider itself.