

The Government's Effective Migration to a Cloud Computing Environment

About Booz Allen

Booz Allen Hamilton has been at the forefront of strategy and technology consulting for 95 years. Providing a broad range of services in strategy, operations, organization and change, information technology, systems engineering, and program management, Booz Allen is committed to delivering results that endure.

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Cloud Computing has rapidly emerged as a new computing paradigm that arrays massive numbers of computers in centralized and distributed data centers to deliver web-based applications, application platforms, and services via a utility model (i.e., fee or charge per use). Industry considers Cloud Computing an “emerging technology.”

Booz Allen: embracing Cloud Computing planning, migration, and organizational transformation needs

Booz Allen Hamilton, a leading strategy and technology consulting firm, recognized early on the significant impact Cloud Computing would have on how the government procures, implements, and manages its IT investments. With its early recognition of Cloud Computing's importance, Booz Allen commenced internal technology and pilot implementation studies, along with prototype client projects, to further investigate Cloud Computing's implications and determine best paths to success for customers. As a result of these early “investigative” and baselining efforts, Booz Allen has been at the forefront in supporting the Cloud Computing initiative in the federal government for several years. Booz Allen is prepared to support all elements of government defense and civilian missions and migration efforts to “the cloud.”

Booz Allen's expertise rests on a broad and deep pool of technical staff and extensive experience across the federal government and private industry. It is noteworthy that Booz Allen follows the Capability Maturity Model Integration (CMMI) framework (appraised at Level III) and has proven tools and approaches for requirements analysis, system design, system development, testing, implementation, and the overall management of the entire system development lifecycle. Tailored implementation and use of these tools and approaches allows Booz Allen to effectively plan and manage resources and ensure the timely and cost-effective achievement of client priorities and deliverables.

Booz Allen's approach: a Cloud Computing transition methodology

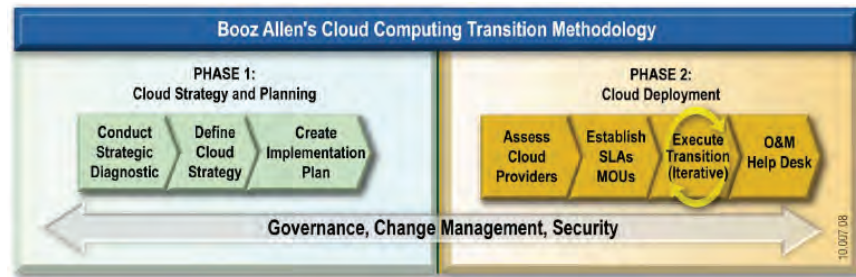
Booz Allen focuses on properly identifying and establishing the critical factors involved in transforming a classic in-house IT environment to a Cloud Computing-based environment. Five critical dimensions are involved in this transformation process: policy and governance, economics, technology, security and privacy, and organization impact. Individually, each element is important; collectively, the elements are the essential focus areas of the transition from contemporary data center/IT baselines and environments to the cloud. Cloud Computing is not a disruptive technology. It is a major factor in organizational and business/technology process transformation.

Client-specific and in-house pilot efforts regarding new platforms, services, and technology led to the Booz Allen Cloud Computing transition methodology. This model has proven itself consistently effective. The proprietary methodology benefits clients through precisely defined and executed steps that, by their hierarchical and integrated nature at lower levels, fully reflect

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clients' requirements and best path approaches. The Cloud Computing transition methodology has two main phases: Cloud Strategy and Planning and Cloud Deployment.



Although many cloud providers proclaim moving existing applications to the cloud is seamless and does not require "code" changes, experience has shown that more analysis and re-engineering may be required to achieve the full benefits of a Cloud Computing environment. Complexities remain that must be considered when moving to the cloud, and careful planning is essential.

Booz Allen's pilot application testing spanned a range of providers' offerings in infrastructure-, platform-, and software-as-a service areas (IaaS, PaaS, and SaaS, respectively). This testing ensured the firm used actual requirements in planning and transitioning a range of applications. The process helped Booz Allen refine paradigms for subordinate methodologies to support the transition, development, deployment, and successful operation of diverse applications and systems.

Although these pilot and prototype efforts represent the majority of classic systems and government requirements for system functionality and services, they also provide a solid foundation and knowledge base for future transitions and more complex applications. For several clients' internal pilot programs, Booz Allen has performed noteworthy efforts reflecting current national security emphasis areas in government, proving the efficacy of Cloud Computing in highly sensitive areas.

Booz Allen experience and expertise

Booz Allen has achieved a position of thought and action leadership in the government's adoption of Cloud Computing. From its earliest testing of Cloud Computing constructs and vendors, transition planning, and technological methodologies to the highly regarded Cloud Computing Summit hosted by Booz Allen in October 2008, the firm has been at the forefront in understanding and developing effective tools and paradigms so government agencies can use this new technology.

Whether you're managing today's issues or looking beyond the horizon, count on us to help you be ready for what's next.