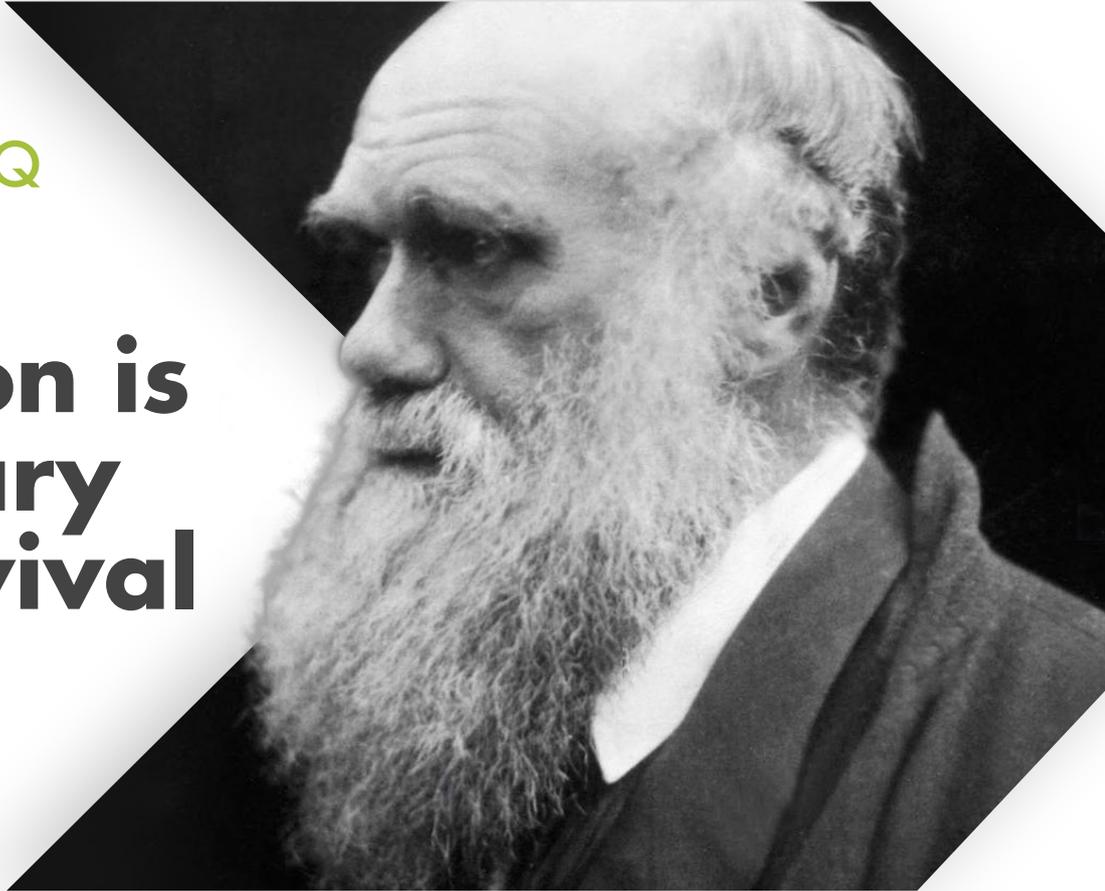


Evolution is necessary for survival



Five reasons your organisation already needs the cloud

Same destination. Different urgency.

It only took a few months to turn everything upside down. Now everyone's talking about the 'new normal'.

It's true. The world we knew isn't coming back. But 2020 didn't reinvent cloud computing. The reasons your business needs to migrate online haven't changed—they've only become more critical. If there's one good thing to come from this year, it's that the lockdown gave many businesses the push they needed to fully embrace the cloud.

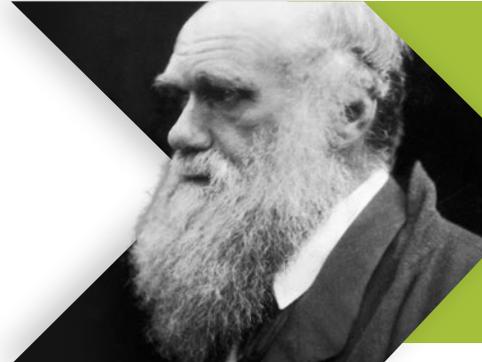
So, seize the moment. Here are just some of the possibilities—plus essential precautions—to help accelerate your journey to a more productive and profitable future.

The vast majority of companies – 90% - are already on the cloud. And, by the end of next year, cloud data centres will process 94% of all workloads¹.

As this paper will demonstrate, there are good reasons for this: the cloud enhances agility, resilience and flexibility whilst bringing complete cost transparency and accelerating the rate of innovation.

¹ <https://hostingtribunal.com/blog/cloud-computing-statistics/#graf>

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1. Agility

COVID-19 proved it in spectacular fashion; you can always count on the unexpected.

Agility is the ability to react when crisis, or opportunity, strikes. This is where the cloud excels. The cloud gives you limitless compute and storage power on demand—so you can rapidly scale up or down whenever you need. Make decisions fast and implement them instantly. Coordinate your entire operation across multiple locations or continents. And, of course, the cloud underpins remote working, which has proved its worth (and then some) recently.

Minimise disruption. Becoming agile can be less than agile. The COVID-19 crisis hasn't so much changed business priorities as focused attention on a smaller number of critical issues. Cloud migration is one of them. It's now not a question of whether to move to the cloud but how fast can you get there. But it's not straightforward. What will you keep in-house for now? What can the cloud do better? How will you avoid downtime? Having a 'cloud first' approach whilst developing an end-of-life strategy for legacy applications is the new normal.

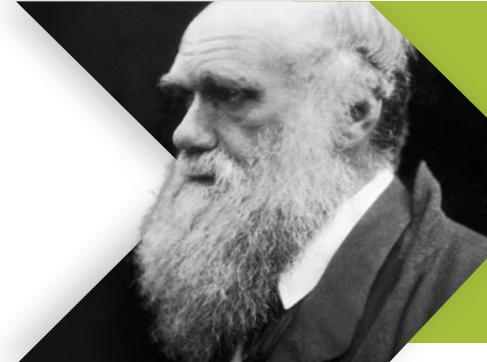


"The level of expertise in solution design and support provided by CirrusHQ has been a formative experience with this project for Garden and Museums IT. Having a simple – yet robust support framework means setting up our AWS operational infrastructure has been seamless."

Anjanesh Babu
Systems Architect and Network Manager
Gardens and Museum (GLAM) IT.



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2. Transparency

Don't have deep pockets and unlimited admin time? You might want to spend less time lost in invoices.

With the cloud, you only pay for what you use. You can also allocate cost to individual business units with complete transparency. That department with the serious IT requirements? Now they can easily show what they've consumed and justify the costs against their budget.

You can get carried away (but do this with structure). With everyone leaping on those enticing resources, costs can quickly add up. CirrusHQ's custom-built portal makes it easy to monitor expenditure with automatic alerts when you're approaching the red. After reviewing how they were managing their own AWS infrastructure, we saved one customer tens of thousands of pounds a year by simply switching services off when not needed.



3. Innovation

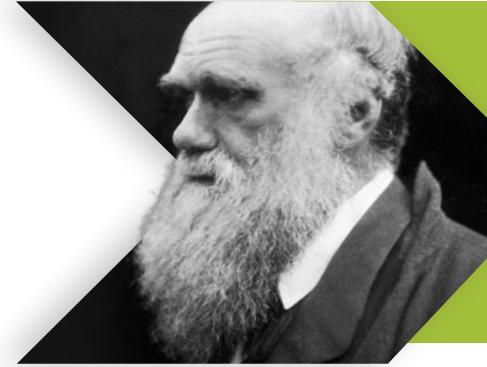
You can probably wait to release your next update or new product. But your competition won't.

DevOps has flushed out traditional 'waterfall' development and the old ways of working associated with it. The IT leader must now be an agent of change and Infrastructure-as-Code (IaC) is the only way to deliver innovation at the pace required. IaC enables you to release new software capability that allows you to exploit new market opportunities or routes to market – in less than an hour! And dial up your competitive advantage soon after.

Prepare for a steep learning curve. The cloud is feature-rich, highly configurable, and somewhat impenetrable to the uninitiated. Make sure you have the skills in-house, or on hand, to take full advantage. With the right DevOps competency, you'll be ready to unleash your innovations on the world.



CirrusHQ has extensive in-house expertise in delivering automated testing and code deployment, enabling your business to move to an agile model where deployments can safely be made tens or hundreds of times per day.



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4. Resilience

Disasters. We've all had enough of them. But are you prepared for another?

Relax. The global infrastructure of the major cloud providers is physically separated and independent, specially designed to withstand local disruption and ensure any potential issues stay local. The service is certified for standards, such as ISO 9001, ISO 27001, PCI DSS, and security can be configured at multiple levels, including data encryption, firewalls, user access controls, audit logging and private network access.

Defuse the minefield. What's your risk profile? The public cloud now offers a highly secure infrastructure but, depending on the nature of your business, you may want specialist assistance. Whatever your risk profile is, the chances are you haven't thought about it as thoroughly as you should have. Ensure compliance with data protection regulation like GDPR. And educate your colleagues. Any cloud migration should reinforce security best practices, including robust password and personal device policies, especially when taking advantage of remote working.

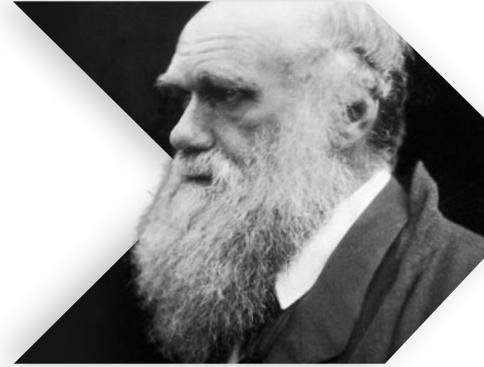


5. Flexibility

How often do you hear a cloud-powered business say, "We don't have that capability?"

Every year, the major public cloud providers create hundreds – even thousands of new features—spanning Analytics, performance storage, IoT, new languages, new ways of coding and releasing software and many more. But what does that mean for you? Which of them will help you deliver new services or exploit new markets? How do these link to your strategic priorities?

Keep an eye out. Flexibility is a double-edged sword. While each of these new features may be transformative for your business, staying up to date on all of them is a steep learning curve for the layperson. Many businesses can't find the specialists to do this for them (or can't justify hiring non-core staff). You can only keep track of all of these new releases if you live and breathe the cloud; and CirrusHQ is dedicated to ensuring that you take advantage of all of those that may be useful to you – so you can stay 'Always Ahead'.



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The sky's the limit

The cloud helps your business solve some of its biggest challenges—and creates a couple of its own. None of them are insurmountable. But if you want to anticipate and avoid the stumbling blocks, you need a reliable roadmap for migration.

Choose a guide who has been there many times before. A partner to help you anticipate and avoid the stumbling blocks. A specialist, preferably a whole team of them, who will immerse themselves in your business KPIs and support your journey to sky-high agility, transparency, resilience, innovation, and flexibility.

Start today. Talk to one of our specialists about Custom Onboarding.

Certified AWS Cloud Solution experts

CirrusHQ has over 14 years' experience of taking companies to the cloud. Our end-to-end expertise enables us to deliver the right balance of expert advice, cloud security and affordability that works for you. We hold a variety of different competencies relating to Consultancy, DevOps and Solution Architecture. We also have extensive experience of working with both the Enterprise and Public Sector markets, helping organisations of all types to embrace the cloud as part of their digital transformation strategies.

Find out how we helped STV to migrate its flagship catch-up application – with no interruption of service.



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