



# 7 Skills You Need for **CAREER SUCCESS** in the Cloud

# 1. Technologies and platforms

IT pros need to add new skills for cloud careers. Expertise in at least one of the public cloud behemoths (AWS, Google Cloud, and Azure) is a must. Building multi-platform experience is more versatile for the job market, but starting with one vendor is a good idea. Containerization expertise is increasingly a must-have, with Docker and Kubernetes leading the pack. Automation software, including Puppet, Chef, and Ansible, is gaining steam in cloud-first environments and is in high demand by employers.

# 2. Integration and multi-cloud environments

"Cloud" can have different meanings, from SaaS to IaaS, and it can be confusing. Organizations are managing multiple cloud services and types, so cloud professionals must efficiently manage multi-cloud environments. Integration of data across applications is crucial, especially when cloud systems need to communicate with legacy systems. Smart cloud professionals prioritize integration to avoid scrambling after the fact, similar to adding wiring and plumbing to a house after the flooring and walls are in place.

# 3. Training and certifications

Cloud certifications are becoming increasingly important, with major vendors like Amazon and Microsoft offering training and credentialing programs. Third-party providers like CompTIA also offer certifications, and there are many lists of top cloud certifications available online. However, certifications alone do not guarantee career success, and they should be viewed as a complement to a strong foundation in cloud computing. Traditional training and certification accumulation may not be the best predictors of success when developing a cloud strategy.

# 4. Organizational strategies and processes

Cloud environments require modern organizational strategies and processes, such as the DevOps approach. DevOps experience is becoming crucial even to longstanding IT roles, and Agile and Lean methodologies are also important. Siloed teams and lengthy release cycles don't work well in cloud-first shops.

# 5. Management and negotiation

Cloud computing demands attention to new business skills in two areas: internal and external. Internally, cloud computing requires a leadership approach that fosters acceptance and enthusiasm instead of a traditional policing mentality. Externally, cloud pros must know how to navigate the vendor landscape and manage security concerns while understanding the financial implications of cloud computing, including calculating TCO and ROI for cloud migration. Successful cloud professionals must have advanced negotiation skills to translate their understanding into favorable deals.

# 6. Metrics and analytics

Successful cloud professionals must have the ability to analyze a vast amount of data about cloud environment performance in real-time. Three areas of metrics that require understanding are usage and costs, application performance, and business-specific analytics. Understanding these metrics is essential for measuring the real ROI and for delivering customized analytics tailored to the needs of specific stakeholders. Pros who can deliver tailored insights that drive faster, better decisions will stand out from the crowd.

# 7. Leadership

To become a cloud leader, IT professionals must drive strategic decisions, consider financial issues, and become a go-to resource for organizational strategy. Building relationships with procurement departments and partnering with system integrators, consultants, value-added resellers, and industry analysts can be helpful. Planning for the long term is also essential. Constant monitoring and assessment are necessary to capitalize on cloud computing for both career and company success.