

As a leader, talk is cheap. Action is what counts and practice makes a difference. Below are practical steps to improve performance.

- **If you're moving to the cloud, get yourself a strong advisor.** If you're not yet in the cloud and looking to move there, get somebody who's not going to just sell you something to try to get you there. Rather, choose a partner who'll help you figure out if you're ready to move to the cloud, if it's the right business time to move, and what's best for your organization. Also, make sure that partner has the right technical skill sets to augment yours through the process. Ideally, look for someone who's "been there, done that".
- **If you're already in the cloud or planning to be, you need FinOps.** FinOps is a key, critical component of understanding cloud spend. Begin by taking Sean Barker's advice and measuring everything to ultimately determine what action plan will help you realize the ROI the cloud offers. Remember, you're going to spend money, but the question is how much *must* you spend? You obviously don't want to spend more than you have to, and FinOps can help you spend responsibly to achieve your business goals and outcomes.
- **You need DevOps and DevSecOps, too.** If you've got an environment that changes, one that's dynamic and repeatable, DevOps and DevSecOps will help you tremendously. Just know that the process around DevOps is not trivial to implement, but speed to market and your ability to recover in the event of an outage could be greatly advantaged by having it.
- **Don't forget about observability!** Once you've deployed your apps and they're operating in the cloud, monitor them! How are they working within the code of what they're doing? What is your internal or external user base using it for? Is it performing the way it should in order to maximize internal processes and the internal and external user and customer experience? A good observability tool collects and represents data in a way that lines up not only with what your infrastructure is doing, but the application as well. Pay attention to how that ties to key business drivers and delivers on behalf of your client base, customer base, or whatever it is you do.
- **Any digital transition, large or small, requires intentionality.** Be planful and deliberate before you embark on any digital transformation or cloud migration, and remember the people pieces of culture and change management are just as important as the business systems and technical design. Spend time up front to get clear about organizational goals and desired outcomes for success.

Let's Get Practical

Cloud Computing and Digital Transformation

Episode 60 – Interview with Sean Barker, cloudEQ

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- ❑ **A typical migration looks a lot like a hockey stick.** They all begin with a lot of planning, awareness, adapting culture, change management, testing, observing, and adjusting, all of which can appear as though not much is happening. It's important to understand there's a lot of straight-line stuff before your organization will hit its stride at the end. How long you're in that straight-line depends on your readiness and appetite for change.
 - ❑ **Security concerns are not a valid reason to abandon the cloud for an on-premise data center.** Sean spoke about this here in Episode 60, echoing what ProCircular CEO and data-security thought-leader Aaron Warner told us in Episode 55: security is rarely better on-site than in the cloud because cloud providers stress more about security than you do. Don't let security concerns frighten you into leaving the cloud.
 - ❑ **Change management is a crucial part of cloud migration.** People struggle with change, so not considering this could delay or derail your cloud migration success. Understand and acknowledge it's going to disrupt your business, that you'll have to change, redesign, and revamp business processes to make it work. Change management is a crucial part of a migration that if you leave out will make everything more painful.
 - ❑ **Technology is not the difficult part of a cloud migration.** The critical component is actually the organization's culture, its readiness, and how much disruption they can handle throughout the process. Obviously, you can work to minimize the disruption, but even if you painted your house one room at a time, there's still going to be disruption no matter what you do. Your role as CEO is to prepare the organization as best you can.
 - ❑ **Start from the ground up.** If you want to implement things like observability, FinOps, DevOps, or DevSecOps, you can implement them at the ground level without massive organizational transformation or awareness. Start small and build up first by measuring, then making more data-driven decisions, then finally considering any organizational restructure to align with what's now in place.

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