

OnX Canada Cloud Solutions on AWS: Paving the road to digital transformation



To succeed in the new digital economy, the enterprise will need a flexible, cost-effective cloud environment that exceeds both the cost and performance characteristics of today's legacy infrastructure. Digital consumers these days are highly capable of optimizing their devices, applications, and other resources, which means that any organization that fails to provide the availability and user-friendliness that the public demands will quickly fall to more nimble, savvy competition. Going forward, success in business will no longer be about size or reach, but about speed to market and the ability to adapt to changing environments.

In this new world, choosing an effective managed cloud partner is crucial. While most people still view the cloud as a single entity, the market today is made up of multiple clouds, with each provider offering different tools and capabilities regarding infrastructure, architecture, and services, not to mention fulfillment, support, and costs.


At the same time, the enterprise should carefully weigh their requirements for a consultant to help guide them through the transition to the cloud. With such variety among cloud providers, selecting the right environment for both current and future needs can be daunting. Not only does this require careful evaluation of all available options, the enterprise must embark on a deep-dive analysis of its own needs, both current and future, as well as legacy infrastructure, corporate culture and hierarchy, available skills, and a host of other factors. Moving to the cloud is not merely an upgrade to a new technology, but a wholesale reimaging of the business model.

In this e-book, you will learn why a managed public cloud solution from OnX Canada, which is powered on AWS, can be essential to addressing your digital modernization and transformation.

Why OnX public cloud works

AWS has been identified by Gartner as the most capable cloud provider in the field today, not just for what it can do right now but for its future roadmap. In the firm's July 2019 *Magic Quadrant*, Gartner rated AWS as a leader in a number of key metrics:

- **AWS has delivered more enterprise cloud resources than any other hyperscale provider.** This is evident in the total dollar amount spent on AWS as well the volume of mission-critical workloads entrusted to it. Surveys of leading enterprise IT executives reveal that AWS is seen as the leading provider of both cloud infrastructure and platform services.
- **AWS serves more different types of organizations than any other provider.** Small startups, mid-sized businesses and top-tier organizations all turn to AWS for their cloud needs. At the same time, all users gain the benefit of early adopters who bring new technologies to the platform, making it easier and less risky for others to adopt them.
- **AWS has the longest history of providing successful enterprise solutions.** It has a proven reputation not just for standard cloud services but as an experienced ecosystem provider, delivering continuous innovation for the most advanced digital initiatives as well as for those looking to support existing models on the cloud.



In part, this is due to the steady stream of new tools and capabilities entering the AWS environment. For the enterprise, this provides the most extensive collection of cutting-edge technologies in IT today, providing world-class support for even the most demanding workloads. Whether it is basic management and governance or more advanced automation and orchestration, or even the latest in serverless computing, OnX and AWS can provide the right tools for the job.

Again, though, the challenge for most organizations is not simply finding the right provider but in creating the unique data environment that best supports the business model. This is where OnX can help. Digital transformation is a complex process that requires careful guidance from the initial design through implementation and even afterwards in the live production stage. Not only must the environment be crafted for optimal performance in a rapidly changing environment, it must also meet stringent cost, security, and risk requirements. And because every enterprise begins this transition from a different starting point in terms of technology and business processes, there is no exact template to follow. Without the proper guidance, organizations may find that they spend substantial time, energy, and other resources only to come away with an environment that fails to live up to expectations or, even worse, is less capable of supporting processes than their previous one.

OnX on your side

After much time and effort, OnX is a certified Advanced Partner in the AWS Well-Architected Framework program. AWS created this initiative to help cloud architects build data environments according to stringent cost, performance, security, and other requirements. Specifically, the W-AF program rests on five key attributes:

- **Operational excellence.** System performance and monitoring must provide high value to business processes and must continually improve over time.
- **Security.** Protection should extend to systems, resources, and the data itself, without diminishing performance. Regular risk assessment is crucial, particularly during data migrations.
- **Reliability.** In addition to keeping the number of outages to a minimum, the consequences of breaches and system failures should be minimized as well. This means ensuring that downtime is as brief as possible and data stores remain secure. The system should also protect against all forms of disruption, whether it is a malicious attack, human or system error, or any other cause.
- **Performance efficiency.** Dynamic resource allocation is a must to ensure workloads consume the minimum amount of resources at all times. This is particularly crucial as market conditions and other factors evolve over time.
- **Cost optimization.** The proper resources must be provisioned for the right workload, and it must be done in the most cost-effective manner to ensure no one is paying for things they don't need.



In this day and age, it is fair to say that security is a paramount concern. Without careful attention to security, the enterprise exposes itself to substantial civil and even criminal liability even if data is merely exposed but not actually stolen. Under the AWS shared security model, managed by OnX, organizations benefit from a multi-layered security regime:

- **Safety.** State-of-the-art safety measures are integrated into the cloud at the infrastructure level, providing top-notch privacy protection across multiple data centers in 22 regions and 69 availability zones around the world.
- **Compliance.** More than a dozen compliance programs are available under the cloud, giving organizations a solid foundation on which to layer their own tailored solutions.
- **Cost reduction.** Offloading workloads to the OnX cloud provides organizations with the latest in security tools without having to purchase them directly or integrate them into legacy environments.
- **Scalability.** As workloads and resource consumption scales, so should security, automatically and in real-time.
- **Next-generation security.** The OnX managed security program for advanced data protection can be tailored to customized AWS environments to continuously enable the latest developments in data protection and recovery.

This is why the enterprise needs a consulting partner that is both certified in advanced cloud architectures and has a demonstrated track record of success. OnX offers a full suite of capabilities to the cloud transition, beginning in the earliest design phase and proceeding to deployment, data migration, and afterward during the production phase with services like monitoring and resource management. Unlike many other consulting firms, OnX provides end-to-end oversight of the environment for as long as the client desires.

Full-service partner

OnX has also gained wide experience in areas beyond what is required of an Advanced Consulting Partner with Well-Architected Frameworks. These include:

- **Cloud customization.** Cloud services should be consumed in ways that fulfill the enterprise's business model, not the provider's. OnX has devised a unique tiered architecture that enables clients to optimize their cloud as they see fit.
- **Cloud management.** Daily infrastructure monitoring and management responsibilities are assumed by the OnX experienced technicians, allowing the enterprise to concentrate on core objectives. This also frees the enterprise from having to develop its own team of cloud experts, all while improving deployment and optimization processes.
- **Broad view.** OnX has the ability to create a wide range of environments within AWS, including test/dev. This allows the enterprise to minimize risk while offloading compliance, security, and other tasks.
- **Privacy and security.** AWS has implemented state-of-the-art technology throughout its data centers to provide the strongest possible privacy protection.



Digital transformation is the IT equivalent of a long journey. Just as you would not board a ship, plane, or rocket to the moon without an experienced pilot, the enterprise should not attempt to transform the very core of its data ecosystem without an experienced guide. It's important to ensure not only that you arrive at your intended destination, but also that you do so on time and on budget.

About OnX

Since 1983, OnX has been partnering with Canadian businesses, healthcare providers and government agencies to provide unique IT solutions that meet operational goals. We provide tailored cloud, communications, infrastructure, and consulting solutions that unlock innovation, drive efficiency, and accelerate growth.



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