

What makes the cloud secure?

A cloud security checklist for innovative business leaders



So you're thinking about moving to the cloud. Which means you've got some new (and some old) security issues to think about.

Where do you start? What should you look for when you're planning your cloud migration or expansion, and what features do you need to tick off your list when you compare partners for the project?

At AWS, we've worked with millions of cloud users in 190 countries, from all kinds of industries – large enterprise, start-ups, non-profits, education and government. Every organisation's needs are different, but we've identified the top features of any successful cloud security initiative. Here are six must-haves for cloud security confidence.

01

Integrated Security and Compliance



Security and compliance should go hand in hand. To gain that all-important confidence that you can deliver on both, look for:

- > Third-party validation for your cloud platform's ability to meet global compliance requirements.
- > Recognised security best practices and certification.
- > Industry-specific certification, especially for highly regulated industries.
- > The ability to inherit your vendor's security controls into your own compliance and certification programmes, to help you make your security assurance efforts more efficient and cost-effective.

02

Scale with Enhanced Visibility and Control

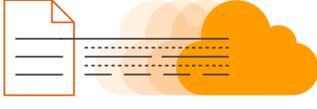


To manage your redundancy, resilience, and fault tolerance as you grow, look for:

- > Full visibility of your data and who is accessing it at all times, wherever it is and wherever you are.
- > Strategic use of isolated availability zones in different geographical regions.
- > Activity-monitoring services that detect configuration changes and security across your ecosystem.
- > Full integration of your existing and new solutions, helping you simplify compliance reporting.

03

Protect Your Privacy and Data



When you move your data to the cloud, you don't just hand over the security reins. Look for a provider that:

- > Respects your need to encrypt your data, move it, and manage retention your way.
- > Offers tools that allow you to easily encrypt your data in transit and at rest.
- > Helps you ensure that only authorised users can access your data.
- > Makes sure you can retain complete control over the global regions in which your data is physically located, helping you meet data residency requirements.

04

Trusted Security Marketplace and Partner Network



It takes more than one partner or solution to secure the cloud, but knowing where and how to access them can be hard. Good cloud vendors should make this easy with:

- > A network of handpicked partners with proven success securing every stage of cloud adoption.
- > A marketplace of solutions available with one-click deployment.
- > Try-before-you-buy or try-as-you-buy model for experimenting and scaling your use of security solutions easily and cost-effectively.
- > Access to curated, complementary solutions that work together to help secure your data whether you're securing hybrid or all-in cloud architectures.

05

Improved Security Through Automation

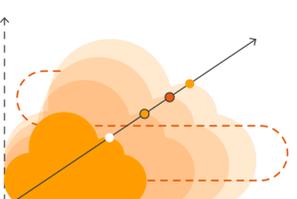


As infrastructure and software delivery accelerate in the cloud, there is no viable alternative to automation – for efficiency and effectiveness as you scale. Look for:

- > Automation makes it possible to accelerate software delivery and innovation, allowing you to do more with fewer resources even as you scale up your business.
- > A platform that can handle high-scale checks efficiently, freeing your team to focus on the bigger picture.
- > API integration that helps security teams become more responsive and agile, and better at working with developer and operations teams.
- > Automated checks that continually enforce your security and compliance controls to help ensure confidentiality, integrity, and availability at all times.

06

Security Innovation at Scale



To remain competitive you not only need to stay ahead of the latest security challenges, but you also need to innovate. Partnering with the right cloud vendor will allow you to do both with:

- > The best security solutions designed by leading engineers with a handle on global trends.
- > Continually improving services like strong identity and access management, logging and monitoring, encryption and key management, network segmentation, and standard DDoS protection.
- > A rapid innovation lifecycle, who continually incorporates fixes and feedback from millions of customers across the globe back into their offerings.
- > Marketplace solutions you can test on the fly, as you need them, without big up-front investment or long-term lock-in.

Further reading



Learn more about these 6 core benefits of cloud security, and how organisations are sharing responsibility for security with their vendors.

[Get the eBook now.](#)

Your next move



To find out how AWS provides customers with robust controls to maintain security and data protection in the cloud, check out our [Cloud Security page](#).