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# CLOUD COMPUTING SKILLS GAP REPORT 2024

ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES IN CLOUD SKILLS ACQUISITION AND IMPLEMENTATION

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As cloud computing continues to evolve and expand, it has become a cornerstone of modern business operations. However, with this rapid adoption comes a critical challenge a widening gap in cloud skills. Our research reveals that 82% of organizations have encountered challenges with cloud migration in 2023, underscoring the crucial pain points in transformation.

This report provides an in-depth analysis of the current state of cloud computing skills within organizations, based on surveys of IT professionals and executives from sectors across the USA, Europe, Gulf and Asia-Pacific region. The findings highlight a substantial skills gap that is preventing many organizations from fully harnessing the benefits of cloud technology.

Despite the recognition of the importance of cloud skills—91% of organizations acknowledge their necessity—there remains a significant disconnect between this awareness and the actual skill levels within their teams. The lack of structured training programs further exacerbates this gap, with only 25% of organizations having robust cloud upskilling initiatives in place.

To bridge this gap and enable organizations to effectively utilize cloud computing, it is crucial to invest in targeted training and development programs. This report offers practical insights and recommendations to help organizations refine their cloud strategies and develop the necessary skills.

# Key Findings

## 82%

82% of organizations encountered challenges with cloud migration last year, reflecting widespread difficulties in transition.

## 25%

Only 25% have implemented comprehensive cloud training programs, despite 89% understanding their importance.

## 79%

While 79% of executives prioritize cloud skills, fewer than 40% of IT workforce feel adequately trained.

## 85%

85% of organizations feel unprepared for complex cloud scenarios, such as multi-cloud management and security.

## 68%

68% report a decline in operational efficiency due to the cloud skills gap, impacting overall cloud strategy execution.

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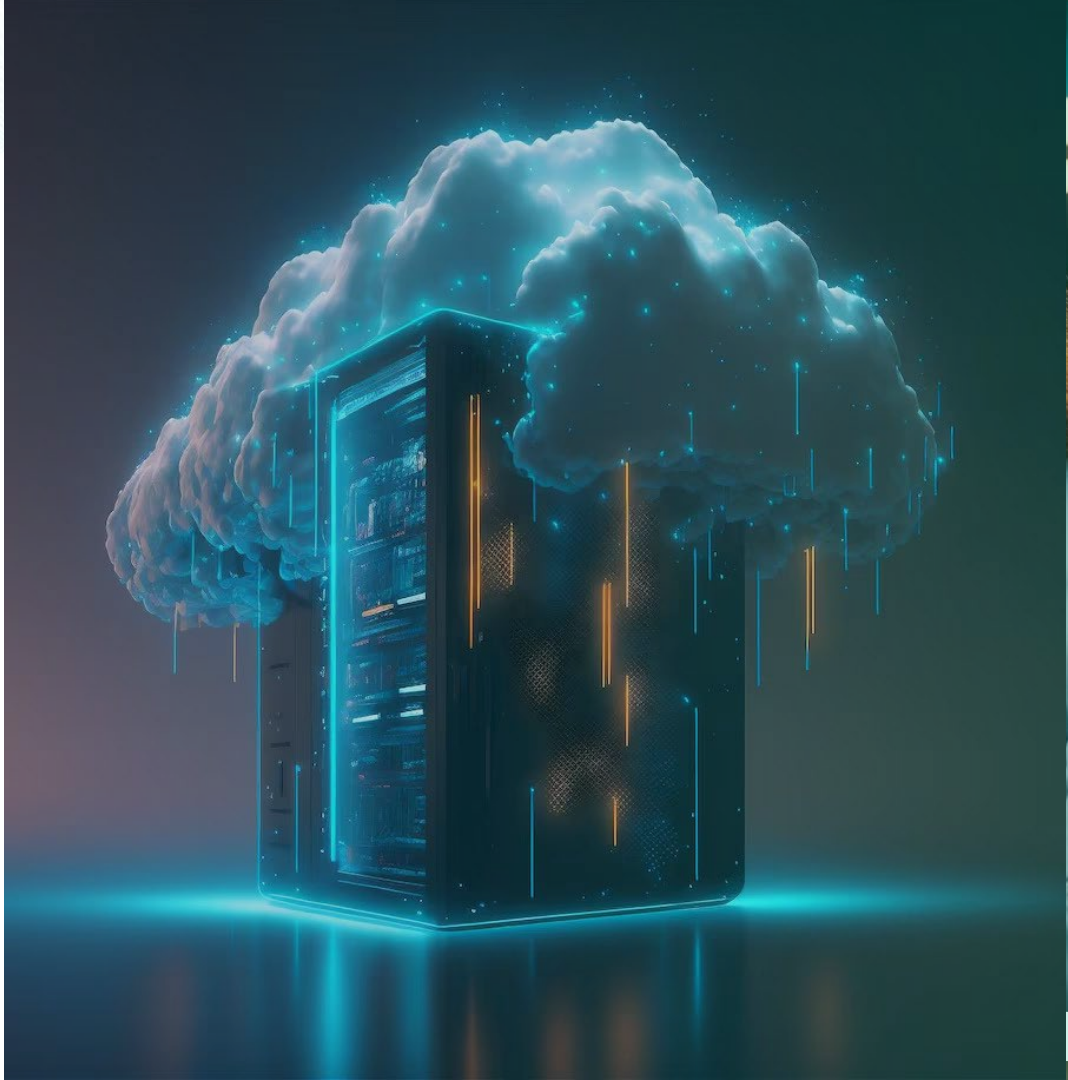


PART 1

# THE GROWING NEED FOR CLOUD SKILLS

The demand for cloud expertise has intensified, with 35% of organizations actively enhancing their cloud capabilities and another 55% planning to do so soon. Around 50% of organizations are equipping their teams with informal training on cloud platforms and services.

This focus on cloud skills is driven by the need to manage the increasing complexity of cloud technologies. In the past year, 70% of organizations have expanded their cloud initiatives, with 80% planning to increase their cloud investment by 25% in the next year.

## Organizations Prioritizing Cloud Skills

75%
Enhancing Cloud Capabilities

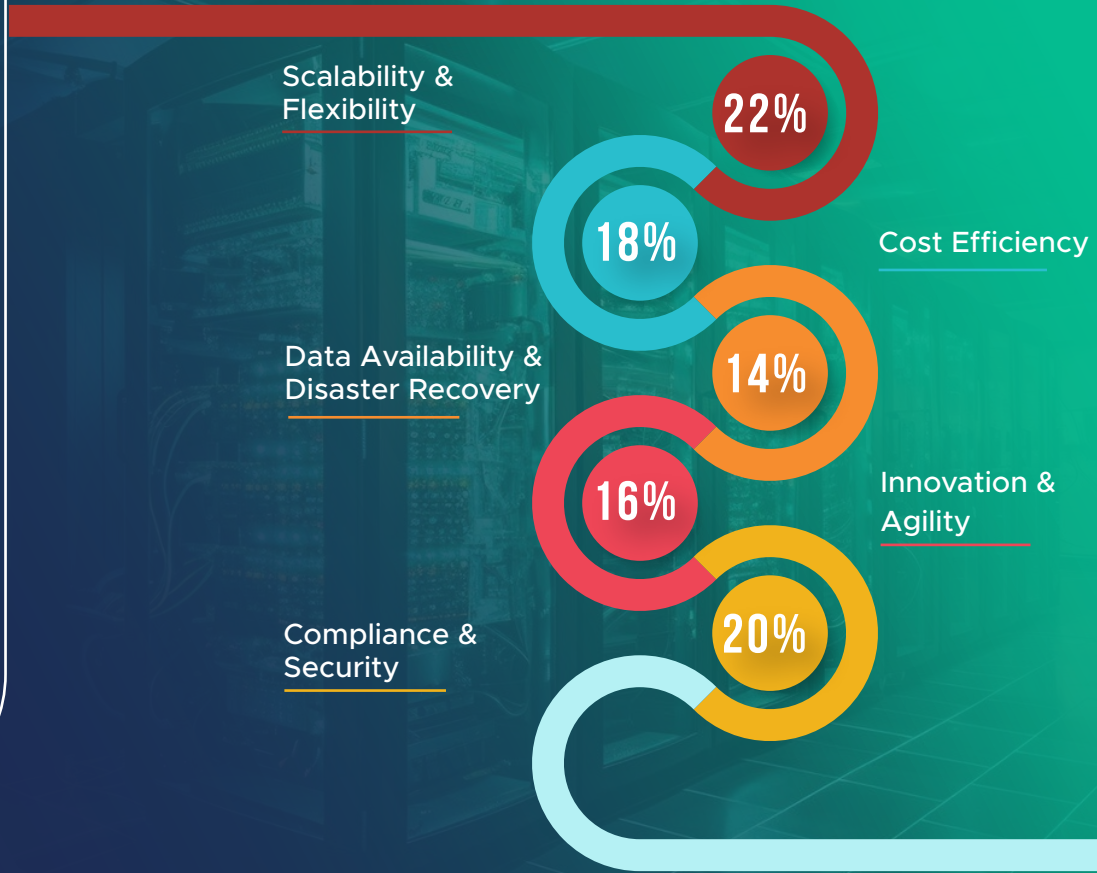
40%
Implemented Robust Cloud Practices

10%
Not Focused on Cloud Skills

# INSIGHTS ON CLOUD COMPUTING ADOPTION

The primary drivers for cloud adoption include the need for scalability, flexibility, and cost-effectiveness.

Organizations are leveraging cloud computing to boost operational efficiency, ensure data availability, and enhance disaster recovery strategies. Despite the evident need for cloud expertise, only about 20% of organizations fully incorporate cloud skills into their core IT strategies.



# CHALLENGES IN DEVELOPING CLOUD SKILLS

Many organizations face hurdles in building cloud expertise, primarily due to financial constraints and a lack of clear direction.

Currently, 30% of organizations do not plan to expand their cloud skills training, and 15% are reluctant to allocate more budget towards it.

## Key Barriers to Investment

### Rapid Technological Changes

The fast pace of cloud technology evolution leads to uncertainty about the longevity of training investments.

### Compliance and Regulatory Issues

The complexity of cloud governance and compliance can deter investment.

### Perceived Low Immediate Return

Some organizations believe their current cloud setups do not justify investing in advanced skills.

### Uncertain Return on Investment (ROI)

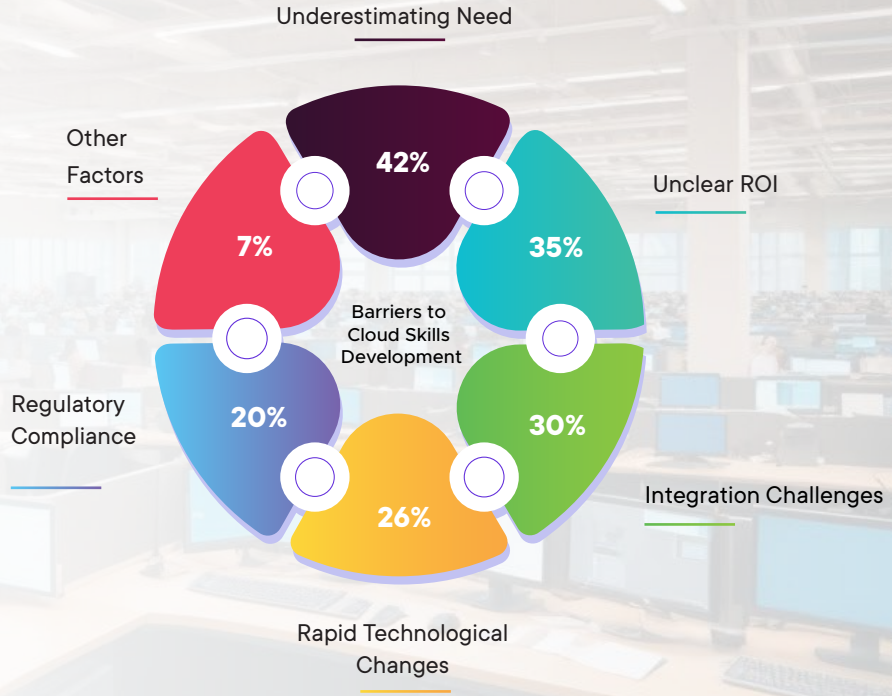
A lack of clarity on the benefits of cloud training makes it difficult to justify expenditures.

### Complexity of Integrating Cloud Practices

The challenges associated with incorporating new cloud tools into existing systems can be daunting.

### Insight

**A focused and strategic approach to cloud training and continuous learning is essential to remain competitive in the rapidly changing cloud landscape.**



PART 2

# THE IMPACT OF THE CLOUD SKILLS GAP

Organizations that focus on cloud skills development report significant benefits, including enhanced operational efficiency, better data management, and faster recovery from disruptions.

# IT PROFESSIONALS' FOCUS ON CLOUD SKILLS FOR CAREER GROWTH

Given the dynamic nature of cloud computing, IT professionals are increasingly motivated to develop cloud skills to stay relevant. Approximately 65% of IT staff are concerned that their current skills might become outdated due to emerging cloud technologies. Additionally, 60% worry about the impact of automation and AI on manual cloud management roles. In response, 88% view continuous learning in cloud technologies as crucial for career advancement.

## Benefits of Cloud Skills Investment for Organizations

- 25% Enhanced Operational Efficiency
- 15% Reduced Downtime
- 20% Improved Data Management
- 12% Cost Optimization
- 18% Faster Disaster Recovery
- 10% Improved Compliance

Investing in cloud skills strengthens organizational capabilities, enhances stakeholder trust, and improves market position.

# ASSESSING CLOUD COMPETENCY A LEADERSHIP PERSPECTIVE

One of the main challenges for executives is evaluating the cloud skills of their teams. While IT workforce are eager to learn and adapt, there is often a gap in executives' understanding of their employees' actual cloud skills, complicating strategic planning.

Our research shows that 79% of executives are unaware of their team's full cloud capabilities. Although 70% of IT professionals feel confident in managing cloud tasks, only 15% have extensive hands-on experience. Sole reliance on self-assessment for cloud competencies can lead to overestimations, particularly in areas like multi-cloud management and security.

To effectively close the cloud skills gap, organizations need comprehensive assessment tools and practical training opportunities for real-world cloud experiences.

# SOLUTIONS TO OVERCOME CLOUD TRAINING CHALLENGES

Despite recognizing the importance of cloud skills, many organizations face difficulties in implementing effective training programs.

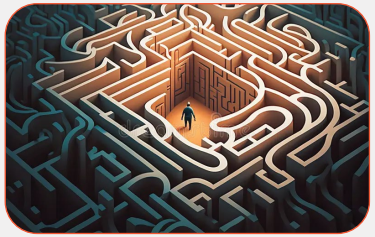
## KEY CHALLENGES IDENTIFIED INCLUDE

### Premature Deployment of Cloud Technologies

Often, new cloud technologies are rolled out without proper employee training. 70% of executives and 65% of IT staff admit their organizations introduce new cloud tools without adequate preparation, resulting in ineffective use and increased risk.

### Short-Term Focus on External Expertise

Many organizations rely on hiring or outsourcing cloud experts, with 80% of executives favoring this approach. However, this is not sustainable as cloud technologies rapidly evolve, and external experts may not always be current with the latest developments.



### Barriers in Employee Training Programs

Challenges such as selecting the right training programs, aligning them with specific cloud platforms, and securing funding hinder effective training.

Organizations should take a structured approach to cloud training, ensuring alignment with technology adoption and fostering a culture of continuous learning.

# STRATEGIES TO BRIDGE THE CLOUD SKILLS GAP

To address the skills gap in cloud computing and enhance cloud adoption, organizations should consider these strategies

### Evaluate Existing Skills

Conduct a comprehensive assessment of existing cloud skills within the organization, focusing on critical areas like architecture, security, and multi-cloud management.

### Design Tailored Training Programs

Develop targeted training initiatives based on the assessment to address specific skill gaps. These programs should cover a range of cloud competencies, from foundational to advanced levels.

### Encourage Practical Experience

Offer opportunities for hands-on experience through cloud labs or simulated environments, allowing employees to practice and refine their skills.

### Foster a Cloud-First Culture

Promote a culture that emphasizes cloud proficiency and innovation. Encourage collaboration between IT and other departments to integrate cloud best practices across the organization.

### Monitor and Adapt Training Programs

Use metrics to measure the effectiveness of training programs and regularly update them to align with evolving cloud trends and organizational needs.

# CONCLUSION

Mastering cloud computing is essential for organizations aiming to remain competitive and efficient in the digital age.

As cloud technologies continue to evolve, the demand for advanced cloud skills becomes increasingly critical. Failing to invest in cloud training now will only widen the skills gap in the future. Addressing this gap requires a commitment to fostering cloud expertise throughout the organization.

Organizations that proactively invest in cloud skills development will be better equipped to embrace new technologies and drive business growth.

# METHODOLOGY

This report is the result of a detailed survey aimed at understanding the viewpoints of top leadership, executives, and IT professionals on cloud computing. The primary goal was to identify the current challenges associated with cloud adoption, assess the existing skills gap, and provide actionable recommendations to enhance cloud skill development.

We surveyed a total of 800 participants from various regions, including the United States, Europe, the Gulf, and the Asia-Pacific region, to ensure a diverse and comprehensive range of insights.

## Position

**TOP LEADERSHIP**
(C-LEVEL EXECUTIVES)
**47 (5.87%)**

**EXECUTIVES**
(VPS, DIRECTORS, SENIOR MANAGERS)
**305 (38.08%)**

**IT PROFESSIONALS**
(MANAGERS, SPECIALISTS)
**449 (56.05%)**

## Experience Levels

**5-7 YEARS**
(IT MANAGERS/SPECIALISTS)
**293 (36.58%)**

**7-10 YEARS**
(MID-LEVEL EXECUTIVES)
**317 (39.58%)**

**10-15 YEARS**
(SENIOR MANAGERS/DIRECTORS)
**98 (12.24%)**

**15+ YEARS**
(C-LEVEL EXECUTIVES, SENIOR DIRECTORS)
**93 (11.60%)**

## Geographical Distribution

**UNITED STATES**
223 (27.84%)

**EUROPE**
101 (12.61%)

**MEA/GULF**
213 (26.59%)

**ASIA-PACIFIC REGION**
264 (32.96%)

By including a mix of top leadership, executives, and IT professionals, and accounting for varying levels of experience, the survey provides a nuanced understanding of the cloud computing skills gap. This approach ensures that the insights are representative of different organizational roles, geographical regions, and experience levels, offering a well-rounded perspective on cloud adoption challenges and skill development needs.

# ABOUT VINSYS

Vinsys is a global leader in professional training and certification programs, with a focus on cloud computing, cybersecurity, IT service management, and more. With 20+ years of experience, Vinsys has been empowering organizations and professionals worldwide to succeed in the digital era. Our flexible training solutions, including in-person, virtual, and self-paced options, are tailored to meet the diverse needs of our clients. At Vinsys, we are committed to delivering high-quality training that drives real results.

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