



# Cloud Consulting Services

Tomorrow's successful businesses  
are cloud-first today

# Your Cloud, Our Expertise

**Cloud computing has become the new normal for digitally-enabled businesses. Yet Gartner estimates that less than a third of enterprises have a comprehensive, documented cloud strategy.**

In a connected world, a cloud strategy is critical to enterprise agility. The infinite capacity, scalability, flexibility and cost efficiencies of cloud technologies enable organisations to respond with speed to shifting markets, customer demands and opportunities. But cloud is not simple or easy – it’s an exciting, dynamic, rapidly advancing field of technology. Harnessing it requires expertise.

Global research indicates that the majority of companies with a cloud strategy have chosen a multi-cloud strategy – i.e., simultaneously using multiple cloud providers. This implies technical transformation of significant magnitude requiring complex architectural, regulatory, organisational and security decisions.

Addressing these challenges requires end-to-end cloud expertise.

Synthesis takes a holistic approach to cloud computing – one that helps organisations put in place a solid foundation to grow their cloud capabilities, close skills gaps and accelerate the adoption of cloud solutions across their organisations.

## Best Practices

We follow a blend of AWS-recommended approaches and industry best-practices, such as the Cloud Adoption Framework (CAF) and the Well-Architected Framework (WAF). These approaches are enhanced

by lessons learnt from practical cloud solution implementations for a number of South African financial service institutions.

## Stimulating Rapid Adoption

Our operating model accelerates adoption of cloud across the organisation. We identify one or more high-value Proof of Concept initiatives and successfully launch them in the cloud. In the follow-on phases, we establish foundational components and migrate these solutions into production-ready environments. This ultimately optimises overall cloud adoption and utilisation.

Training and enablement of existing staff is a critical component of any successful cloud strategy but closing the skills gap can be a challenge.

## Closing The Skills Gap

Synthesis’ Academy offers a specialised cloud computing curriculum geared towards accelerating an organisation’s cloud journey (see our Synthesis Academy brochure). Using a combination of classroom training, hands-on practical work and tailor-made knowledge tracks, growing the company’s cloud skills can be fast-tracked as its employees are equipped for success in the cloud.

Let us help you fast-forward to cloud!

# Synthesis and Amazon Web Services

aws partner network

Advanced Consulting Partner

Financial Services Competency

DevOps Competency

Well Architected

Channel Partner

SaaS Partner

**Synthesis has deliberately cultivated broad and deep Amazon Web Services (AWS) knowledge and experience.**



Our AWS Advanced Consulting Partner status reflects our significant achievements and recognition of our industry expertise.

- AWS Advanced Consulting Partner (first Advanced Partner Africa and the Middle East)
- AWS Financial Services and DevOps Competency Status



# Synthesis Cloud Consulting Services



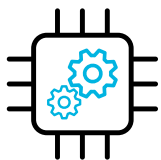
## Innovation Projects

Rapid application development and prototyping in the cloud to deliver maximum business value against a given use case. The aim is to build working software, regularly demonstrating to the key stakeholders how these components work within a cloud context and allowing for frequent feedback to eliminate uncertainty. These projects can also form the basis of the foundation phase.



## Enablement

Establish and evolve the organisation's cloud strategy. Synthesis assists to design and execute a tailor-made cloud adoption journey and deploy technical guardrails, such as the AWS Landing Zone solution or Control Tower, to help automate and operate the organisation's cloud environments according to best practice.



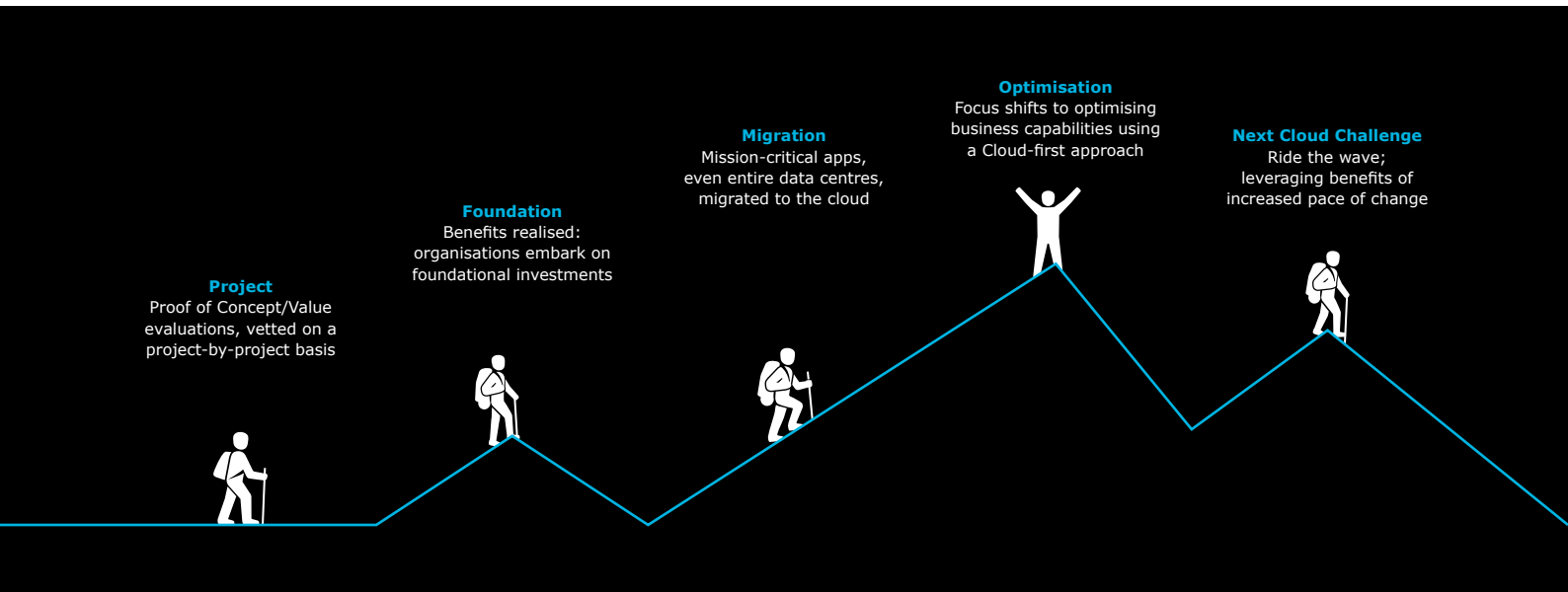
## Migration

Focused on, and solving for solution development, deployment automation (CI/CD pipelines), cloud security, cloud operating model and engineering standards, the Synthesis accelerator model enables customers to quickly realise benefit from any application migration with best practice, architecture and knowledge transfer built in.



## Optimisation

Continual improvement of the cloud environment with reviews of existing workloads using the Well-Architected Framework to remediate in areas such as security, cost optimisation, performance, operational efficiency and reliability. Ongoing review and implementation of governance tools for compliance with organisational requirements.



# About Synthesis

**Two decades of providing software solutions for blue-chip financial services companies means we understand that, in a connected world, technical innovation and business innovation is increasingly interchangeable.**

Synthesis is a specialised technology consulting and software development business with specific expertise in cloud services. Our clients include blue-chip organisations such as Investec, Absa, Standard Bank, Capitec and Nedbank.

Founded in 1997, we offer highly specialised software development, consulting and integration services, and technology-based product solutions in South Africa and other emerging markets. Our focus is on the biggest impact areas for businesses: cloud computing, digital channels, blockchain and big data. In addition, we have our eye on trends such as artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning.

**We have a long and proven track record in playing a critical part in translating business strategy into technology solutions that have a real, measurable business impact for our customers.**

As an accredited AWS Advanced Consulting Partner, our cloud transformation initiatives assist enterprises to become cloud ready, successfully execute mass migrations, harness the benefits of big data analytics and extract the cost savings and regulatory benefits of compliance.

From a simple data centre migration to the implementation of fully elastic container fabric architectures, we understand the work and thinking required to unlock a cloud-first and, potentially, cloud-only world for large enterprises.

We are an independent, wholly-owned subsidiary of JSE-listed company, Capital Appreciation.





# Contact

To learn more about our cloud services and how we can help you on your cloud journey visit:

[www.synthesis.co.za/cloud-consulting](http://www.synthesis.co.za/cloud-consulting)

## Work We've Done

### **AI, cloud-fuelled brand separation for Absa/Barclays Africa**

When Barclays Africa cut ties with Absa Group, Absa had to identify and remove 40,000 Barclays Africa artefacts from its documents, marketing and contracts by 2020. In just eight weeks, Synthesis developed a microservices and cloud-based solution powered by machine learning (ML) that could analyse 5,000 records (images, text and context) in 30 minutes. The solution allowed Absa to complete its brand audit for South Africa by its June 2018 deadline. Once changes have been made to artefacts, they will be re-ingested and analysed, and the changes be validated. and gives Investec the ability to meet the growing demands of customers on the platform.

### **Re-architecting the Vitality app platform for global scalability**

Synthesis has provided the expertise needed to optimise the microservices architecture of Vitality Group's global Vitality wellness solution. We took a fully automated 'infrastructure as code' approach to provision the infrastructure and deploy the software applications, redesigning the underlying Kubernetes orchestration platform. In just four months, Synthesis redeployed the enhanced Vitality solution across eight global regions. By making adaptation and deployment of the Vitality app an automated, repeatable and auditable process, we have delivered huge service, quality and performance gains of the application.



