Anantyx

A Cloud Management Platform for Public Sector Business Users

Abstract: This whitepaper discusses the challenges faced by non-IT business users in public sector organizations when trying to access and leverage cloud services effectively. It introduces Anantyx, a cloud management platform designed to empower public sector business users with the ability to provision, manage, and monitor their own cloud environments without having to rely on IT departments. Anantyx simplifies entry into cloud computing by offering an intuitive self-service user interface, real-time cost tracking, and an integral secure foundation, all while ensuring compliance with public sector security and governance requirements.

1. Introduction

As cloud adoption grows, governments are increasingly realizing the potential of cloud technology for improving citizen services. As a result, efforts and investments are being made to accelerate cloud adoption and overcome associated challenges to realize the full benefits of cloud-based solutions in the public sector.

The federal government has made considerable strides in cloud adoption through initiatives such as the Cloud First policy, prioritizing cloud solutions over traditional on-premises infrastructure for new IT investments. In addition, the Federal Risk and Authorization Management Program (FedRAMP) has played a crucial role in facilitating cloud adoption by providing a standardized approach to security assessment, authorization, and continuous monitoring of cloud service providers.

Many federal agencies have successfully migrated some of their applications, data, and services to cloud platforms, leveraging cloud solutions' scalability, cost efficiency, and flexibility. As a result, cloud adoption has enabled these agencies to streamline operations, enhance collaboration, and deliver services more efficiently to citizens.

However, there are also some challenges associated with implementing cloud computing in the federal government, including:

- Complexity: The lack of talent available to deal with the complexity of cloud computing is a challenge for many public sector organizations. Governments need leadership, architects and CloudOps teams that can think proactively about how to leverage technology to combat cloud complexity. This means using pragmatic approaches and searching for existing or emerging technologies to help them work smarter and democratize access to the cloud.
- Security: The federal government is responsible for protecting sensitive data, and there are concerns that cloud computing could make this more difficult. For example, cloud providers may have access to sensitive data, and there is always the risk that a cloud provider could be hacked.

11911 Freedom Drive, Suite 850, Reston, VA 20190 • 703.944.9500 • www.anantyx.com

A Cloud Management Platform for Public Sector Business Users

Whitepaper

Thank you for downloading this AWS and Anantyx Whitepaper! Carahsoft is the distributor for AWS public sector solutions available via GSA, NASPO, The Quilt and other contract vehicles.

To learn how to take the next step toward acquiring AWS's solutions, please check out the following resources and information:

For additional resources:
carah.io/AWS-Resources

For upcoming events:
carah.io/AWS-Events

For additional AWS solutions:
carah.io/AWS-Solutions

For additional Marketplace solutions:
carah.io/AWS-Marketplace

To set up a meeting:
AWS@carahsoft.com
888-662-2724

To purchase, check out the contract vehicles available for procurement:
carah.io/AWS-Contracts

For more information, contact Carahsoft or our reseller partners:
AWS@carahsoft.com | 888-662-2724

Anantyx
CLOUD MADE EASY

A Cloud Management Platform for Public Sector Business Users

Abstract: This whitepaper discusses the challenges faced by non-IT business users in public sector organizations when trying to access and leverage cloud services effectively. It introduces Anantyx, a cloud management platform designed to empower public sector business users with the ability to provision, manage, and monitor their own cloud environments without having to rely on IT departments. Anantyx simplifies entry into cloud computing by offering an intuitive self-service user interface, real-time cost tracking, and an integral secure foundation, all while ensuring compliance with public sector security and governance requirements.

1. Introduction

As cloud adoption grows, governments are increasingly realizing the potential of cloud technology for improving citizen services. As a result, efforts and investments are being made to accelerate cloud adoption and overcome associated challenges to realize the full benefits of cloud-based solutions in the public sector.

The federal government has made considerable strides in cloud adoption through initiatives such as the Cloud First policy, prioritizing cloud solutions over traditional on-premises infrastructure for new IT investments. In addition, the Federal Risk and Authorization Management Program (FedRAMP) has played a crucial role in facilitating cloud adoption by providing a standardized approach to security assessment, authorization, and continuous monitoring of cloud service providers.

Many federal agencies have successfully migrated some of their applications, data, and services to cloud platforms, leveraging cloud solutions' scalability, cost efficiency, and flexibility. As a result, cloud adoption has enabled these agencies to streamline operations, enhance collaboration, and deliver services more efficiently to citizens.

However, there are also some challenges associated with implementing cloud computing in the federal government, including:

- Complexity: The lack of talent available to deal with the complexity of cloud computing is a challenge for many public sector organizations. Governments need leadership, architects and CloudOps teams that can think proactively about how to leverage technology to combat cloud complexity. This means using pragmatic approaches and searching for existing or emerging technologies to help them work smarter and democratize access to the cloud.

- Security: The federal government is responsible for protecting sensitive data, and there are concerns that cloud computing could make this more difficult. For example, cloud providers may have access to sensitive data, and there is always the risk that a cloud provider could be hacked.

- Compliance: The federal government is subject to many regulations, and it cannot be easy to ensure that cloud computing solutions comply. For example, the Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA) requires federal agencies to implement security controls to protect their data.

2. Empowering Business Users

Anantyx is a cloud management platform that is designed to help public sector organizations overcome the challenges of cloud computing. Anantyx provides a user-friendly interface and governance framework that enables non-technical users to provision and manage cloud resources without the need for specialized training or certification.

Anantyx is native to the AWS platform, which provides public sector organizations with access to a wide range of cloud services, including computing, storage, networking, databases, analytics, machine learning, and more. Anantyx – AWS partnership enables public sector organizations to take full advantage of all that cloud computing has to offer, while also providing them with peace of mind knowing that their data and applications are secure.

Anantyx eliminates the need for cloud technical expertise and reduces dependency on IT departments. With Anantyx, business users can create, change, scale up or down, add, delete services, and monitor real-time costs effortlessly. Anantyx simplifies communication between users and the cloud by offering clear and concise selection choices, devoid of technology terms and jargon that may be overwhelming. Anantyx specifically caters to the needs of individual business users by providing only the choices essential for their operations, all of which are approved by their respective business units and IT. All these choices are provided in the form of easy-to-use drop-down menus and operation selections.

Furthermore, business unit managers and Anantyx administrators are provided with a business-focused dashboard, advanced supervisory management, and cost tracking features. The dashboard allows them to view operations on “a single pane of glass”, and quickly navigate to the subject of their interest. Advanced management features allow unit managers and Anantyx administrators to take over all operations for resources “owned” by a member of their unit/organization. They can even reassign cloud resources from one user to another without any loss of data or licensed tools. This is especially important when a member is leaving the unit or needs to focus on other tasks. Anantyx provides concise and informative cost data summarized by business units, individuals, and services. It offers real-time accrued cost information that is constantly monitored and compared against the assigned budget. Additionally, Anantyx integration with AWS Cost Explorer provides projected cost analysis, which identifies potential budget slippage.

3. Bridging the Gap between Business and Technology

AWS offers a wide range of options for each cloud service, which can make it challenging for business users to choose the right ones. Anantyx helps by offering a tailored and personalized set of selections described in plain English. These choices are focused on the user's business

needs and daily operations, and enable business users to effectively communicate with the cloud.

This “translation” includes the simplification of logins into a variety of cloud compute resources. Business users do not need to know how to use Remote Desktop Protocol or Secure Shell. They just need to click on the selected resource icon to be connected.

4. Enhanced Security and Compliance

Anantyx is built on an AWS GovCloud Secure foundation, ensuring robust security measures and compliance standards. Anantyx system administrators can establish comprehensive guardrails and implement stringent governance measures to prioritize security and ensure adherence to policies and procedures. With Anantyx, cloud security concerns have become a thing of the past, allowing organizations to embrace the cloud without compromising data protection. Shadow IT risks are also reduced through centralized cloud governance.

5. Business Benefits of Anantyx

Anantyx delivers significant benefits to organizations, revolutionizing their cloud experience:

- **Accelerated Provisioning Time:** Anantyx reduces the time required to provision cloud resources from an average of 30 days to just 30 minutes. This drastic improvement allows organizations to respond quickly to changing needs and seize opportunities without delay.
- **Optimized Cloud Resource Utilization:** By providing real-time cost visibility and detailed information on cloud services, Anantyx helps businesses identify and address over-utilized or under-utilized resources. This optimization leads to cost savings and ensures efficient resource allocation.
- **Increased Productivity of IT Resources:** Anantyx empowers IT teams by freeing them from routine and time-consuming cloud management tasks. With automation and simplified processes, IT professionals can focus on high-value activities, driving innovation, and supporting the organization's strategic goals.
- **Improved Customer User Experience:** With faster provisioning, optimized resource utilization, and visibility for the business user into their cloud workplaces, Anantyx greatly enhances the customer user experience. Businesses can deliver reliable and scalable services, ensuring customer satisfaction and loyalty.

6. Use Cases for Anantyx

Anantyx cloud management platform has many use cases that can support and benefit an organization. Below are some of the more popular uses:

- **Mission Labs:** Anantyx facilitates innovation within mission labs by providing a secure and accessible cloud environment.

- Zero-Trust implementation: Supports the evaluation of new and federally mandated technologies such as zero-trust security implementations. Evaluators can mimic federal agencies' production environment and invite multiple vendors to deploy, configure, and offer solutions.
- Software Upgrades and Patching: Reduces the risks of outages and network intrusions that can arise from security patching and software product upgrades. All patches and upgrades can be thoroughly validated in completely isolated environments before being introduced to the corporate network.
- Technology Sandbox: Allows the Federal Government to create any kind of cloud configuration and conditions a business user needs in a controlled sandbox environment. Then business users can assume full management responsibility and efficiently research, validate and collaborate on new ideas and solutions.

- **Procurement Accelerator:** Anantyx aids Public Sector procurement process by facilitating market research, RFx down-selection of vendors, and running challenge programs. It provides an efficient platform to evaluate and select the best solutions for business needs. It allows the user to create a replica of their production environments and conditions to mitigate risk during the evaluation phase. All these capabilities drastically reduce risks of overbudget acquisitions and technology projects failures.
- **Virtual Workplace:** Anantyx reimagined virtual work environments. It has elevated remote capabilities from mere virtual desktop access to a secure, self-service, and mission tailored virtual workplace for business units. This virtual workplace encompasses multiple cloud services and software tools. It supports day-to-day operations, special projects, and training initiatives by providing a reliable and user-friendly cloud infrastructure to all team members.

7. Conclusion

Anantyx stands out as the most revolutionary AWS cloud management tool on the market, specifically designed for the business user. Anantyx is a valuable tool for public sector organizations that are looking to accelerate their digital transformation journeys. It provides them with the simplicity, security, and scalability they need to successfully adopt cloud computing and improve their ability to serve citizens.