



Cloud and the Digital Backbone

Strategically harness the power of cloud to build a resilient and sustainable technology foundation for your organisation's future.

CGI Business Consulting and Advisory insights



An end-to-end digital framework to power your success

In today's complex and competitive business landscape, it is common for organisations to embed digital technologies that enable their growth strategies. For many, this involves implementing IT throughout their organisation, but few develop a holistic business case or transformation roadmap covering everything they do, or have a comprehensive strategy that aligns their IT with broader strategic goals.

At CGI, we believe that true digitalisation isn't just about adopting new technologies; it's about embracing a holistic mindset. As a leader in IT and business consulting, we help organisations unlock their full potential, driving our clients' growth through the power of "digital".

But digital transformation isn't simple. That's why we developed our value-led, technology-enabled Digital Backbone framework, which delivers best practices and lessons learned to inspire your journey.

The Digital Backbone offers the fundamental building blocks to drive your transformation success. It helps you envision secure and sustainable solutions that combat your challenges and support your ambitions.

Combined, your new capabilities will create a robust, IT-enabled structure – a digital backbone – that transforms everything you do, enabling your organisation to thrive in our ever-evolving world.



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The new normal



Today's organisations require agility and innovation to deliver seamless digital experiences. Cloud is an essential enabler of this, with agile operating models that adapt to constant change. In fact, many consider cloud to be the new operating model, especially in a digital world of anytime, anywhere operations.

Over nearly two decades, cloud services have become mass-adopted and pervasive. Cloud service providers – from artificial intelligence (AI) start-ups and independent software vendors to hyper-scalers – continue to innovate new services at a rapid pace.

The combination of cloud and other technologies, such as the internet of things (IoT), advanced analytics, AI, automation, 5G, and edge computing, together form the key ingredients of modern digital business solutions.

Adoption challenges

While cloud technology has matured, many organisations are not yet harnessing its full transformational potential. Years into IT modernisation efforts, challenges persist, including inflexible cloud strategies, overly simplistic modernisation efforts, and immature cloud-native practices.

Common issues include sprawling, poorly governed and inadequately integrated SaaS solutions, as well as hastily implemented governance and operational models that are not designed for the velocity and interconnectedness of the cloud age.







A well-defined and executed approach to cloud transformation addresses these challenges, enabling you to thrive in the digital age by fostering an adaptive, resilient and sustainable enterprise.

Cloud and the Digital Backbone

Unlocking your organisation's full potential – **transformation done right**

What is a digital backbone?

A digital backbone goes beyond simply applying IT to areas of your organisation as a support mechanism. When designed effectively, a digital backbone becomes the cornerstone of a successful modern organisation; it embeds technology throughout all operations, using the power of IT to create a robust structure that enables continuous innovation and transforms everything you do.

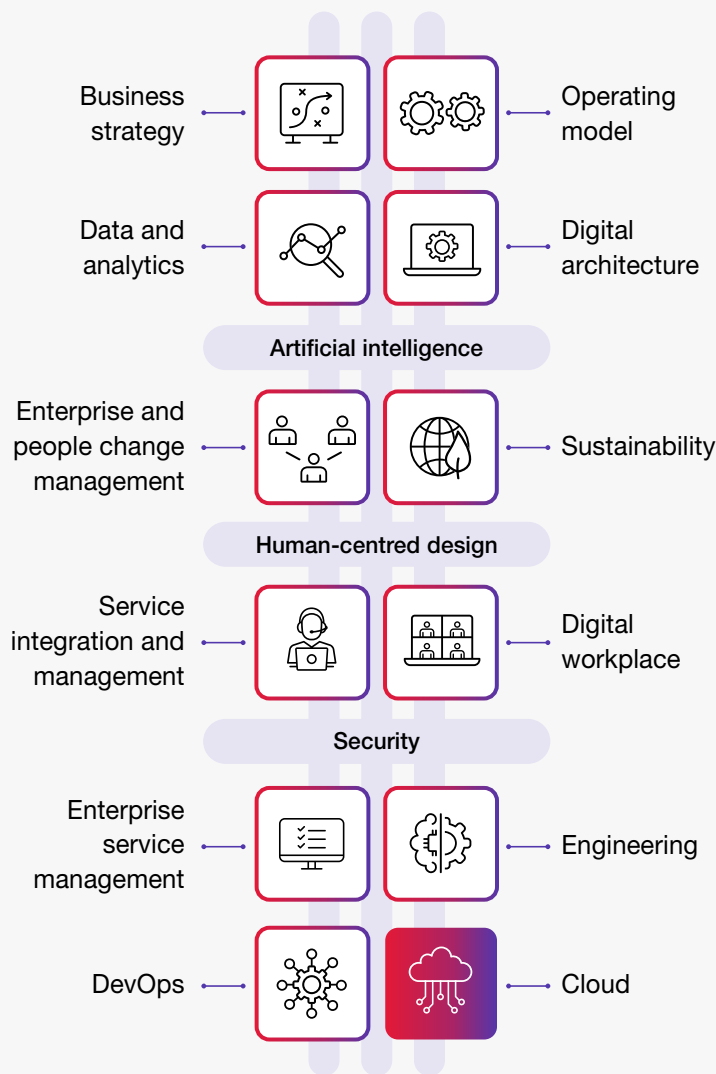
	Increased efficiency and productivity across streamlined operations.		Increased revenue alongside more cost efficient processes.
	Greater agility and growth with a faster time to market.		Better regulatory compliance , including empowering sustainability initiatives.
	Improved service and product quality for customer, employee and stakeholder satisfaction.		Strategic decision making through data-driven insights.

The Digital Backbone

– our end-to-end framework to make IT the enabler of your success.

The Digital Backbone delivers twelve fundamental building blocks to inspire digital transformation and unlock your organisation’s full potential. These can be implemented either individually or as a whole programme, with every step strengthened by three embedded enablers – artificial intelligence, human-centred design and security – so no matter where you are on your journey, the Digital Backbone provides a comprehensive vision for your transformation strategy.

That’s why we made cloud a key component of the Digital Backbone, empowering you to create a resilient and sustainable technology foundation that enables your organisation’s future. By integrating our cloud best practices and strategic insights, you can effectively align your digital investments with organisational goals, ensuring that your technology initiatives drive tangible business outcomes.



A vision for cloud transformation



Strategically harness the power of cloud to build a resilient and sustainable technology foundation for your organisation's future.

The key steps

Despite the central role of cloud in IT modernisation, digital leaders are sourcing direct cloud skills less frequently, preferring instead to use strategic partners who can co-create, deliver, and manage innovation and value across their digital value chain.

To deliver value, organisations therefore need an end-to-end service portfolio approach. Wherever you are on your modernisation journey, you'll need the right combination of cloud and partner capabilities to help accelerate your business outcomes.

You'll need to consider:

1

Future-proofing your technology and cloud strategy, architecture and roadmaps by treating them as ongoing, cross-functional strategic planning processes.

4

Tackling the daunting task of **modernising your complex legacy core systems** with agile SaaS integration and configuration, or an agile re-factoring or re-architecture, ensuring your business continuity and minimal risk.

2

Accelerating the modernisation of your application and data environments, as well as your critical IT foundations with a smart, agile and scalable **modernisation factory model**.

5

Governing, managing, running and optimising everything, **securely and compliantly** using full-stack site reliability engineering (SRE) and CloudOps/AIOps managed services for multi- and hybrid cloud environments.

3

Propelling your product and service innovation with cloud-native development and **DevSecOps capabilities**.

6

Harnessing cloud to **realise your sustainability goals**, considering the net zero challenges many modern organisations face.

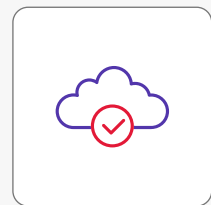
With this business-focused, value-led approach to the cloud:



You'll have **effective cloud strategy, architecture and planning** processes that align to and evolve with your changing needs.



The bulk of your applications portfolio, including your core systems, will be **rationalised, streamlined and modernised**.



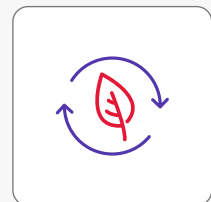
Your monolithic core applications will be replaced by **modern, cloud-native solutions**, or evergreen SaaS solutions where possible.



You'll benefit from both a cloud-first and SaaS-first modernisation approach that delivers **higher user satisfaction, productivity and innovation**.



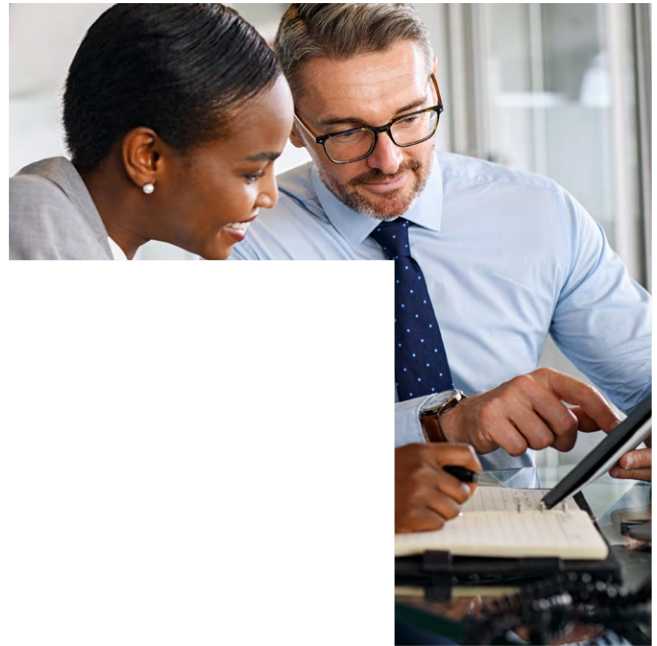
You'll master the cloud-native software development factory model, with rapid release times and frequency allowing for **innovation and new functionality scale**.



You can **operate more sustainably**, with strong and flexible cloud governance, optimised cloud performance and costs, AI-powered CloudOps, FinOps, and confident cloud security and compliance.

CGI Business Consulting and Advisory

Built over 50 years, CGI is one of the world's largest providers of high-end IT and business consulting services. We are trusted to transform organisations with innovative solutions, so developed our Business Consulting and Advisory (BC&A) team to share our knowledge and experience with you.



Offerings to support your organisation

Wherever you are on your transformation journey – whether you're looking to develop a forward-thinking business strategy, improve the effectiveness of specific processes, or implement an innovative solution – we're here to help.

We understand that transformation isn't simple. That's why **our experts developed all our BC&A offerings around the Digital Backbone's twelve key propositions**, embedding artificial intelligence, human-centred design and security throughout to support you with the right approach and solutions to address your challenges, achieve your ambitions and build your own digital backbone capability.

Whether you'd like to build a complete digital backbone that will become the cornerstone of your growth, or if there's one specific area standing in the way – perhaps that's cloud - we have the offerings and solutions to ensure your transformation project succeeds.

Whether you choose a public, private or hybrid cloud solution, we can help. Our offerings include:

- Cloud strategy, planning and architecture
- Cloud operating model centre of excellence
- Cloud readiness assessment
- Cloud migration
- Cloud cost optimisation
- Cloud health check
- Cloud intervention and turnaround
- Cloud infrastructure assessment
- Future hosting strategy

BC&A places you at the heart of our offerings. We work to understand your unique challenges and opportunities – whether you require strategy development, or solutions design and implementation – and we'll guide you every step of the way.

Our teams cover a range of sectors such as higher education and healthcare, as well as specialist areas including business consulting, technical advisory, service management, and sustainability.

We remain supplier agnostic, but also have teams designated to our **strategic alliances** with the likes of Microsoft (Azure), AWS, ServiceNow, Google, NetApp (and more), enabling us to design you the right solutions, working with the right partners to deliver the best outcomes.

So whatever your specific requirements, challenges or industry, with BC&A's breadth of knowledge and experience, we'll empower you with a team that is hand-picked to enable your success.



To find out more:

Explore the Digital Backbone and its twelve key propositions in more depth on [our webpage](#). Fill in [this short form](#) and we'll be in touch to discuss how our cloud offerings or our overarching Digital Backbone framework can support your specific needs.



About CGI

Insights you can act on

Founded in 1976, CGI is among the largest IT and business consulting services firms in the world.

We are insights-driven and outcomes-based to help accelerate returns on your investments. Across hundreds of locations worldwide, we provide comprehensive, scalable and sustainable IT and business consulting services that are informed globally and delivered locally.

cgi.com/uk/digital-backbone

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