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5 Reasons AWS Cloud Security Consulting is Important Post Migration

If you've made the decision to move to AWS, you understand the versatility, scalability, cost savings, and security advantages this move brings. Ironically, security concerns are a major barrier for organizations moving to the cloud. For example, there is worry that it isn't secure enough, that everyone will have access to personal information, and questions about where data will be stored at any given time. While AWS is secure, your organization can also extend those benefits by using security consulting services. Here are five reasons AWS cloud security consulting is important post migration.

1. AWS Well-Architected

AWS Well-Architected provides a consistent approach for customers and partners to evaluate architectures and implement design. This is the blueprint that Alacriti Consulting uses to help you analyze and review each client's applications and workloads. Based on five pillars—operational excellence, security, reliability, performance efficiency, and cost optimization—AWS Well-Architected is the foundation of your house in the cloud. With a consultant, you can be assured that your architecture is aligned with cloud best practices and guidance for making improvements.

2. AWS Shared Responsibility Model

Ensuring your foundation has been built correctly by implementing the AWS Well-Architected blueprint is the first step. When building a house, you are given the opportunity to purchase the type of materials, fixtures, and appliances you would like. You will have warranties on those items which will be the manufacturer's responsibility to fix if something breaks, but it's your responsibility to understand how those devices work, turning them on and off when you need it, and maintenance for certain aspects of those items.

Similarly, in the AWS Shared Responsibility Model Security and Compliance is a shared responsibility between AWS and the customer. AWS operates, manages, and controls the components from the host operating system and virtualization layer—down to the physical security of the facilities in which the service operates. The customer assumes responsibility and management of the guest operating system (including updates and security patches), other associated application software, and the configuration of the AWS provided security group firewall.

Customers should carefully consider the services they choose as their responsibilities vary depending on the services used, the integration of those services into their IT environment, and applicable laws and regulations. This is why it is important to have a company like Alacriti Consulting to step in. Understanding all of AWS services, your responsibilities, how to integrate those services, and every rule, law, and regulation, as it pertains to your company, can be a lot for one organization.

3. Continuously Comply with Rules and Regulations

Depending on where you live, e.g. suburbs, country, the city—you have rules and regulations you have to comply with for your home. The same applies to the cloud. For instance, your organization may house PHI/PII regulated by HIPAA, or you may store credit card information so you have to understand PCI compliance. Your house will need to be postured properly and protected. When living in a neighborhood with an HOA, you have to be familiar with regulations no matter how small to avoid fines—the maintenance of your lawn, how many vehicles are on the street, even paint color can cause trouble.

The cloud is the same; not having the right components implemented can cause a company to be in breach of stringent regulations, and face large fines. Continuous Compliance involves not just achieving compliance but maintaining it continuously. Internal IT teams often don't have the right skill set to ensure cross-organizational compliance with new industry regulations, which are added and changed annually. Instead of your IT team shouldering that burden, Alacriti Consulting can serve as Security Administrator; implementing, monitoring, updating, and complying with the rules and regulations needed for your organization to stay compliant.

4. Adding an Extension to Your Team

Continuous maintenance and upkeep for a home is a lot for just your family to keep up with. Often you will bring in people to help if you lack the time or the skill set to fix or maintain everything. Alacriti Consulting becomes an extension of your team—helping you with the maintenance and upkeep of your infrastructure. Examples include patching, backups, security, logging, compliance, new projects, etc. The level of service that Alacriti Consulting provides allows your organization to focus on your core competencies and grow. By using a consulting firm, you can ensure that your team is able to place their energy on revenue impacting projects instead.

5. Application Services

There is always a need to make changes or add on to a home. Alacriti Consulting adds application services to your existing foundation too. This includes application management; monitoring applications for availability, performance, and capacity on a 24x7 basis, including incident reporting, investigation of issues, tracking, escalation management, and closure. Production support is provided with a detailed analysis of the incident, incident resolution, and problem management activities such as trend analysis, root cause analysis, known error establishment, and bug fixes. There is also release and change support capabilities including establishing test environments. Examples of release/change activities are release coordination, emergency releases, build and code deployment, managing the release calendar, and software configuration management.

Whether you're just looking to optimize your AWS environment or need help every step of the way for security, Alacriti Consulting can help. To discuss how Alacriti can manage your AWS security tools, please contact us at awsconsulting@alacriti.com.

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