RSA

SOLUTION BRIEF

Securing Your Cloud Transformation

Marrying cloud flexibility and scalability with visibility and security

Organizations face risks at all stages of their cloud transformations, whether they've adopted a cloud-first strategy, are dealing with shadow IT deployments or they're being forced to move services formerly hosted in the cloud back on-premises due to unexpected long-term costs.

The irresistible appeal of the cloud

It's no wonder organizations continue to invest so heavily in cloud services. In many cases, cloud platforms and infrastructure represent the backbone of their digital strategies and transformation initiatives. Yet their hearty appetite for cloud services suggests that they have an equally strong stomach for risk. After all, cloud services and platforms dish up as many risks as they do benefits (see Figure 1).

Risks	Benefits
Service outages and other reliability and availability issues	Confers agility via fast, easy deployments
Policy and regulatory compliance violations	Scales as workloads expand or contract
Data security, access and privacy issues	Offers budget flexibility (opex vs. capex)
Cloud provider financial viability	User-friendly for external customers and internal employees

Figure 1: Cloud Risks and Benefits

A closer look at data security, access and privacy risk in the cloud

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The most challenging aspect of cloud adoption for many security teams may be that cloud adoption eliminates the traditional network perimeter and increases an organization's attack surface, at the same time that it decreases their visibility into these environments. It also gives identity and security teams more points of access to manage, even as it creates "islands of identity" – multiple user stores containing identities associated with different cloud services that identity and access management teams have little control over. Meanwhile, most SaaS applications,

including privileged accounts for SaaS and cloud infrastructure, are still protected only with passwords, making them highly vulnerable to account takeover and other credential-based attacks.

Identity and access management in the cloud

Organizations can offload work to the cloud, but clearly, they can't offload all the risk. RSA can help your organization address identity and access risk in the cloud by providing advanced capabilities to:

- Implement and manage proper access controls and governance for cloud services to mitigate risks
- Leverage modern, risk-based multi-factor authentication to provide users with convenient, secure access to cloud-based resources
- Extend full visibility into potential security and fraud threats across cloud environments

How RSA can help

RSA provides secure access to cloud-based and on-premises systems, with modern, user-friendly, risk-based multi-factor authentication and automated identity governance controls. RSA:

- Gives users timely access to the cloud-based applications they need from any device
- Offers unified visibility and control across your application and resource landscapes, so the business can holistically manage users and access—thereby reducing blind spots and minimizing risk
- Empowers employees, partners and contractors to do more without compromising security or convenience by supporting blended cloud and on-premises, bring-your-own-device, and mobile environments
- Supports an identity assurance strategy that enables users' access to applications quickly and easily, without sacrificing your organization's security posture
- Deploys "as-a-service" in the cloud or on-premises

The making of a multi-cloud strategy

As business functions use cloud services and IT departments move toward cloud architectures, a well-defined multi-cloud security strategy becomes essential to ensuring your organization can meet its business objectives. At a minimum, you should know which cloud providers are most critical to your business and what data resides on these platforms. You should also ensure you have visibility into these environments, along with risk-based controls for securing access to them.

The security threats to these environments are significant given the extent to which organizations rely on them. Make sure you have the flexibility and scalability of the cloud without compromising visibility and security.

About RSA

RSA provides trusted identity and access management for 12,000 organizations around the world, managing 25 million enterprise identities and providing secure, convenient access to millions of users. RSA empowers organizations to thrive in a digital world, with complete capabilities for modern authentication, lifecycle management and identity governance. Whether in the cloud or on-premises, RSA connects people with the digital resources they depend on everywhere they live, work and play. For more information, go to RSA.com.

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