Cloud Environments and Monitoring Tools

Tech London Advocates & Gigamon

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INTRODUCTION

The ongoing mass adoption of cloud computing has been a key driver of many of the most transformative tech trends in recent years. These include artificial intelligence (AI) and the internet of things (IoT), as well as remote and hybrid working. Looking further ahead, cloud computing is expected to enable further technologies that will define the economies of this century.

However, cloud-related risks are also top of the security agenda for senior executives, with more than one in three expecting such risks to "significantly affect" their organisations in the coming months. As such, this roundtable will feature mid-size and large organisations, focusing on better understanding the cloud environments currently being used in the enterprise space. This will include the types of platforms companies are using and the security concerns involved.

PURPOSE

In May 2023, Tech London Advocates and Gigamon convened a roundtable to explore how businesses are using, monitoring and advancing their cloud capabilities. The purpose was to better understand the status-quo for cloud adoption in business, and to uncover the barriers, learnings and solutions in cloud monitoring and security.

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ATTENDEES

Russ Shaw CBE
Founder, Tech London Advocates & Global Tech Advocates

Marco Lo Giudice
Head of Emerging Risks at Lloyd's of London

Stephen Oliver
Senior Director EMEA North at Gigamon

Leonid Stolyarov
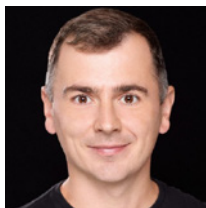Cloud Practice Lead at KPMG

Mark Jow
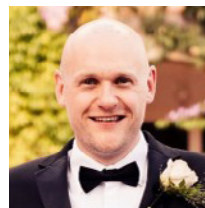EMEA Sales Engineering Leader at Gigamon

Swarnima Sircar
Senior Manager, Products & Private Markets at LSEG

Rob Harrison
VP of Products & Services at Sophos

Mike Coates
Cloud FinOps Lead at Lloyds Banking Group

Eddie Lamb
Director of Cyber Education and Advisory at Hiscox

Neil Bellamy
Head of Technology, Media and Telecoms at NatWest

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KEY FINDINGS

Cloud migration is now widespread across all sectors and businesses of varying sizes - and it's estimated 98% of organisations use the cloud in some way. Whilst some businesses feel more secure using multiple providers, some corporates prefer the simplicity of using a sole provider.

Larger corporations tend to be well accustomed with the cloud and are adopting it at scale, but it's not necessarily as simple as the size of a business. There are distinctions between different markets, countries and industries. For example, it was noted that Europe in particular has relatively low adoption of cloud.

In traditional industries such as banking and insurance, a significant shift in cloud adoption has been observed post-pandemic. Legacy systems and practices had to be rapidly moved online, and for many a migration to the cloud was the solution.

LEARNINGS

Cloud migration is incredibly complex for large enterprises. One of the most critical learnings to come out of the roundtable was the importance of knowing where data is and where its moving to and from. Organised criminals leverage a lack of knowledge and naivety, and that's how breaches happen.

It is clear that there is a tangible growth opportunity for businesses migrating to the cloud. Roundtable guests were also quick to note that cloud adoption had helped their business scale, particularly over the course of the pandemic, and it would remain an important part of scaling their business.

SOLUTIONS

Ultimately, knowing the basics of where your data is, what assets you have and the chain of events that can occur if data were to be breached is imperative. Monitoring tools that have central oversight across multiple platforms of ALL information and data in motion are critical to securing sensitive consumer and business data.

Businesses are often unclear about who is responsible for security in the cloud, the cloud provider or the business itself. Those businesses that are ahead of the curve, recognise that they are responsible and have invested monitoring tools to give them the levels of visibility they need to secure and protect their hybrid cloud environments, maintaining the security of their most valuable business asset – their data.

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KEY QUOTES

EDDIE LAMB, HISCOX

"Any monitoring tool is priceless - it really is. The more time we have to respond, the more calmly and conscientiously we can respond. If I had £10 to spend on security, I would spend £9 of it on my monitoring services."

LEONID STOLYAROV, KPMG

What we have found is that it's really important to have appropriate levels of visibility in each and every one of your cloud accounts. You want to be able to quickly understand what type of data was impacted, and where."

NEIL BELLAMY, NATWEST

"Every year we've been moving more and more into the cloud. We have multiple cloud providers - we don't want to be beholden to one provider. We're still very much early on in the journey - but looking at the big picture, it's about migrating on to the cloud for now, and then we will get into the cloud."

SWARNIMA SIRCAR, LSEG

"The financial world works on Excel, because it's easier to coordinate everything on one platform. Our cloud journey has been a real learning curve - and different pockets of the company do it better than others."

MARK JOW, GIGAMON

"You've got to have the right level of visibility, at the right level - that is what helps you stay secure and innovate at pace. If we can see it, we can stop it and send you in a different direction."

STEPHEN OLIVER, GIGAMON

"If you can see it and understand it then you can make an informed decision. If you have 5 children and you only ever know where 4 of them are, you've got a problem!"

MARCO LO GIUDICE, LLOYDS OF LONDON

"It is Covid that has transformed Lloyds. You don't buy a policy at Lloyds by entering the Lloyds building - which is why cloud is so significant. The culture at Lloyds was very traditional and there's been a big change."

MIKE COATES, LLOYDS BANKING GROUP

"It's sometimes hard to quantify the benefits of the cost, because it's probably 5 or 10 years away that people will be able to see the functional benefits."

ROB HARRISON, SOPHOS

"There are lots of Silicon Valley businesses that are cloud only. In the UK, there's a greater talent challenge with cloud adoption."

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EXPERT VIEW: DEBU PURKAYASTHA, MANAGING PARTNER, 3RD EYE

As well as his role at 3rd Eye, Debu sits on the Board of University Hospitals Birmingham, one of the largest hospital trusts in the UK. In discussion with Gigamon & TLA, Debu spoke about the cloud environment at the Trust, and in the wider NHS.

> "Our ambition would be to go full cloud, but I can't see us ever being full cloud in the near future. That's because you're only as good as your most porous border."

On NHS cloud adoption...

> "The world that we are going to move in is going to have a higher and higher percentage of public cloud. There's no doubt about that. But, there is an element that is going to remain very similar to banks - that's going to remain on-prem or hybrid, and it's always going to rotate between the two."