Cloud Computing Policy and Cloud Computing Strategic Direction – Agency Cloud Implementation Initiative

To all agencies under the Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997 (FMA Act)

Purpose

The purpose of this Australian Government Information Management Office (AGIMO) Circular is to inform agencies that at the 25th August 2011 meeting of the Chief Information Officer Committee (CIOC), members agreed that:

- FMA Act Agencies advise AGIMO of where they currently use cloud-based services and candidate areas of information or services that may be suitable to migrate to public or other clouds by December 2012.

- FMA Act Agencies to provide the above details to AGIMO by COB, Wednesday 16 November 2011.

Key points

1. The Australian Government Cloud Computing Strategic Direction paper strongly recommends that FMA Act Agencies take a risk-based approach to the use of cloud computing and outlines areas and timeframes that may be suitable to transition to cloud.

2. Examples of candidate areas of non-sensitive information for migration to the public cloud would include public facing information currently in the public domain such as static websites, published materials and data sets and/or any information hosted on agency infrastructure that is non-sensitive or unclassified.

3. To assist in the determination of information and services that could be transitioned to the public or other clouds, AGIMO draws agencies attention to:
   a. the agency resources information, the Privacy Act 1988, the National Privacy Principles and the Privacy Information Assessment Guide provided by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner;
   b. the Protective Security Policy Framework provided by the Attorney-General’s Department;
   c. the Cloud Computing Security Considerations advice provided by the Defence Signals Directorate; and
4. Agencies are encouraged to take this opportunity to consider the aggregation of public facing websites at the portfolio level and to also consider further opportunities to integrate their web presence with australia.gov.au.

Background

5. Advice contained in the Australian Government Cloud Computing Strategic Direction paper, released April 2011 (Table 1: Tactical Application and Use of Cloud by Government at the Information and Technology Layers, Page 20), indicates the transition of public (non-sensitive) information to the public cloud can occur now.

Action required

6. Agencies are requested to advise AGIMO of their current use of cloud-based services;

7. Agencies are requested to identify candidate areas of information and services that may be possible for migration to the public or other clouds by December 2012; and

8. Agencies are requested to provide the above details to AGIMO by Wednesday 16 November 2011. This can be completed by using the attached template (Attachment A) and emailing to aga@finance.gov.au.

Contacts

9. If you have any questions regarding this AGIMO Circular, please contact the Governance and Policy Branch within AGIMO at aga@finance.gov.au or phone on (02) 6215 3543.

Glenn Archer
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Australian Government Information Management Office
23 September 2011