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Cloud Architecture as a Service – Planning and Design

Service Definition

V1.0





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1 Service Overview

We provide a managed service for architecture design, development, management, and assurance during strategic planning and service delivery for portfolios, programmes, or projects.

The service flexes to provide different experts and specialists to support each stage of the requirement. We provide regular reporting and feedback to clients.

We assess the business and ICT needs and we define the most appropriate and cost-effective options and solutions available.

Our recommendations cover, for example: Cloud services, COTS packages, microservices, ERP, and CRM components. They support the Cloud First and Digital by Default agendas.

Architecture as a Service (AaaS) embraces:

- Strategy Alignment & Architecture Vision.
- Align cloud architecture with organisational strategy, service outcomes and Cloud-First principles.
- Define architecture vision, scope, success criteria and decision principles (SaaS-first, zero-trust, automation-first, API-first).
- Traceability model from business objectives to capabilities to architecture decisions.
- Current-State Assessment & Gap Analysis.
- Rapid discovery of the as-is estate (apps, platforms, data, integrations, identity, operations).
- Baseline non-functional requirements (security, performance, resilience, accessibility, sustainability).
- Gap analysis with prioritised recommendations and dependencies.
- Target Architecture & Reference Patterns.
- Target reference architectures for common domains (web & API, data & analytics, integration/iPaaS, workspace/collaboration, ERP/HR/Finance, contact centre).
- Reusable patterns catalogue (networking, identity/SSO/MFA, encryption, observability, DR).
- Policy-as-code and guardrails definition (naming, tagging, configuration baselines).
- Landing Zone & Platform Design.
- Cloud landing zone design (tenancy/subscriptions, networking, identity, security baselines).
- Environment strategy (dev/test/uat/prod) and connectivity (hybrid/on-prem, internet egress).
- Logging/monitoring, secrets management and key management architectures.
- Solution Architecture & High-Level Designs (HLDs)
- Domain/solution HLDs covering functional flows, integrations, data, and non-functional needs.
- Design of interoperability (APIs, events, messaging), data contracts and versioning.
- Cost and sustainability considerations embedded in design options and trade-offs.

- Integration, Data, & Analytics Architecture.
- Integration blueprint (API-led, event-driven, and batch patterns) and iPaaS enablement.
- Data platform architecture (warehouse/lakehouse, streaming, governance, and lineage).
- Reporting and analytics approach (embedded vs. enterprise BI), privacy, and retention.
- Security, Privacy, & Resilience by Design.
- Identity & access model (least privilege, SoD, privileged access controls).
- Data protection (classification, encryption, tokenisation) and secure configuration patterns.
- Resilience objectives (RTO/RPO), backup/restore patterns, and DR architectures.
- Architecture Governance & Decision Support.
- Lightweight design authority cadence, decision records, and quality gates.
- Impact assessments for changes; risk reviews and route-to-green actions.
- Supplier architecture review and alignment across multi-vendor delivery.
- Cost, FinOps & Sustainability.
- Cost-to-serve estimates and optimisation levers (rightsizing, reservations/savings plans).
- Tagging standards, budgets and alerts; showback/chargeback options.
- Sustainability guidance (efficient services, storage lifecycle, decommissioning of legacy).
- Delivery Enablement & DevSecOps.
- CI/CD reference pipelines and environment promotion strategy.
- Testability, observability, and operability baked into the design (SLO/SLI definitions).
- Handover to delivery teams with playbooks, templates, and scaffolding.
- Accessibility & Inclusive Design.
- Accessibility requirements integrated into solution design, UI standards, and content models.
- Assisted-digital considerations and inclusive patterns for public services.
- Roadmap, Risks & Readiness.
- Sequenced roadmap balancing quick wins with foundational change.
- Readiness checklists and go/no-go criteria for major milestones.
- Dependencies, assumptions, and risk register with mitigations.

2 Track Record

We have provided architecture and design managed services and support to a variety of clients including:

- Home Office / Police Digital Service / Police Forces – National and local police systems
- FCO – Corporate services
- UKBA – Immigration case work programme
- Defra – Portfolio of projects including mobile and flexible working
- Defra – Grants and subsidies administration systems programme
- Network Rail – National video surveying data solution
- English Heritage – Portfolio of projects including virtualisation and archiving
- Prudential – BI solutions

Case Study:

We provided an ‘Architecture as a Service’ capability for the Home Office working across all major policing systems from strategy to implementation, including the transition to cloud technologies. We developed business, information, technical, security, and solution architectures to support all stages of the systems lifecycle to underpin business cases. We subsequently reviewed and assured the implementation of these architectures during development and delivery.

We developed strategic options for a Common Policing Architecture, including the use of Cloud services. We subsequently assessed future options for the provision of the PNC, PND, and ANPR services. We defined business and technical options. We have also undertaken specification, management, and assessment of proofs of concept to provide options for delivery.

3 Contacts

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4 About us

Who We Are

BIP is a fast-growing global management consultancy (backed by CVC Capital Partners), employing over 6,000 professionals across 27 offices in 12 countries.

We operate across Europe, the Americas, and the Middle East, including here in the UK, Italy, France, Germany, Spain, Portugal, Switzerland, Austria, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, the UAE, and the US.

We help organisations tackle complex challenges, outpace their competitors, and build a sustainable future through strategic insight, operational excellence, and technology innovation.

In the UK, BIP has been recognised by *The Times* and trusted by FTSE 100 companies, government departments, and industry leaders, establishing itself as one to watch in the consulting landscape.

Our Philosophy: Value, People and Technology

At the heart of everything we do lies a powerful combination: **value, people, and technology**. These three pillars enable us to deliver meaningful, scalable, and lasting outcomes for our clients.

We are value creators and business integrators, combining strategic insight with implementation excellence to help organisations move the dial at pace.

Our work is powered by deep expertise in digital transformation, AI, cloud, and technology-led change, ensuring every solution drives sustainable progress *and* measurable impact.

Our Approach: Design to Deliver

We are doers and makers, NOT just PowerPoint writers.

Everything we do is designed to deliver real, measurable change within defined timelines. We ideate, test, and learn, working closely with clients and partners in an open, collaborative way to ensure every solution is built to last.

Our goal is not only to deliver outcomes, but also to transfer knowledge and empower clients to continue their transformation independently.

This partnership model offers long-term value and enables us to focus on where we can make the next biggest impact.

Our Expertise

With deep sector experience across:

- Financial Services
- Government & Public Sector
- Defence & Industries
- Energy, Utilities & Resources
- Telecoms & Media
- Retail & Services
- Life Sciences
- Commercial Real Estate

We bring sharp insight, proven delivery experience, and technological edge to every engagement.

The recent integration of Verco and Riskcare into BIP UK further strengthens our offering, adding market-leading expertise in net zero strategy, sustainability advisory, and financial risk technology.

Here to Dare

“Here to dare” is more than a motto, it is our mindset.

We dare to think and act differently, to explore beyond limits, and to create opportunities through bold innovation and collaboration.

We believe in shared journeys, celebrating results, milestones, and even challenges, because true responsibility means growing together.

We imagine a future where business thrives through the synergy of technology, humanity, and sustainability.

The BIP World

BIP is a world of innovators, designers, data engineers, change managers, producers, and marketers, all working together, infusing each other with ideas, energy, and passion.

We want to leave a mark with what we do and share a journey with every company we work with.

We're 6000 people, 47 nationalities, 12 countries, united by a drive to empower organisations through technology and passion.

Our people, the BIPers, are the heart of our success. They thrive in an environment that encourages self-expression, growth, and balance, inspiring them to engage clients with the values they live by.

5 Other Information

The scope of our G-Cloud Service

The scope of our G-Cloud service is defined in this document and the associated features and benefits. It covers the supply of professional services to support the evaluation, selection and deployment of cloud solutions and services for a range of public sector organisations.

Are we a reseller?

BIP is not a reseller, and we are totally independent of all product vendors and solution providers.

Support provided to buyers

When buyers have shortlisted one or more of our services, they may ask clarification questions prior to purchase. This helps them understand, in more detail, if we are the best supplier for them and how they can benefit from our service. We then use our knowledge of the cloud solution marketplace to advise and guide clients through the specification, selection, and deployment process.

How users work with this G-Cloud service

Users can use this service to obtain professional advisory support for their cloud solution selection, deployment and business transition. This can be on a short term, long term or ad-hoc basis using either selected specialists or a team approach.

Service onboarding and off-boarding process

When a client buys us using one of our G-cloud services, we typically undertake an initiation process at the start of the service to ensure the client's requirements are fully understood and that they are clear about what we will do, how we will do it, and what we will deliver. We will also discuss and agree how any issues will be raised and managed from either side during the service operation.

At the end of the service, we will typically undertake a review with the client to ensure they are happy with what has been delivered and that their expectations have been met. We can also discuss and future support if this is appropriate.

Pricing

We provide services and our day rates are shown in the SFIA rate card for this service.

Service definition and how it will be delivered

The services defined in this document and the associated features and benefits will be delivered by one or more of our consultants with full management support and quality assurance from our public sector portfolio leadership. The service will be delivered from our office, working remotely or at the client's offices, depending on which is most appropriate.

Our security certifications and standards

BIP has the Cyber Essentials Plus Certificate of Assurance which is renewed each year.

Our approach to personnel security

BIP's personnel checking process for new employees includes all components of the employment processes described on Gov.uk, including validating their right to work in the UK.

We cover checking original versions of the necessary documents with the new joiner and making and retaining copies of these documents.

The identity documents and other information gathered are sufficient to enable Government Security checks to be undertaken. BIP maintains an extensive pool of appropriately security cleared consultants.