

G-Cloud 15:

Oakland Data Platform Software Service Definition

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Oakland

The Data Platform Software service we provide cannot be truly defined until we have spent time understanding a client's needs. This document provides a broad description of our service and how we go about providing our clients a full stack data platform capability, and covers Cloud Architecture, Data Engineering, and a little insight into our approach.

This document will not define in detail what technical capabilities we will provide. This is because we will work with our clients to understand their needs and understand their current data stack. Only then will we advise which technologies to use. Examples of such technologies include Azure Data Lake, Kubernetes services, Azure Cosmos, Synapse, as well as AWS S3, EMR and Athena. As you will quickly realise these are all cloud technologies readily available. However, we will tailor these to meet your needs to ensure you have a capable, efficient and cost-effective data platform capability that has the potential to transform your business.

Cloud Architecture

Moving to the cloud is no longer simply about exchanging your current IT landscape for cheaper infrastructure and simpler administration – it's about transforming the way you drive value to your customers.

Oakland combines deep cloud architecture and implementation expertise with more than three decades of unrivalled process and quality improvement experience.

This rare combination helps you reimagine your existing value chains and deliver a step-change in operational performance.

Our pilot initiatives deliver immediate operational value to the business so they can fully appreciate the gains in performance and decision-making provided by cloud computing.

We design our client cloud architectures with open, accessible cloud technologies that are easy to maintain, extend and resource once our projects are completed.

Unlike other providers who lock you into long-term support contracts, our goal is to give you easily managed and extensible cloud infrastructures that will create the platform for continued digital transformation in your organisation.

Artificial Intelligence

We don't just help you provide accurate and timely insights into the past. You need cloud architectures that help you deliver predictive analytics.

With our deep expertise in cloud-based artificial intelligence and machine learning, we help you shape the future through predictive analytics.

Our Cloud Architecture Approach focuses on Lighthouse Pilots

Shine a light on the potential for cloud architecture with a Lighthouse Pilot

Given our extensive expertise with cloud architecture, our preferred approach is to help you imagine the art of the possible, with a rapid pilot or proof of concept.

These are not throwaway experiments.

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Data Engineering

Whatever your starting point, our data engineering team has the expertise and experience to guide you through each phase of the data engineering journey.

Oakland has been around for many years (nearly 40 years), so we've gained real insight into what's possible with the latest advances in data engineering, and more importantly, what it takes to deliver a successful data initiative, particularly using modern Agile approaches.

Importantly, we recognise that when you embark on a data engineering initiative, you don't want to be locked into your implementation partner. You want a sense of pragmatism when changes and new adaptations become necessary.

Today, data engineering isn't just about building fast pipes that move lots of data around the business quickly. It's about rethinking your business model with data at its core, then designing data engineering solutions that give you a long-term platform for sustained growth.

We're partnering with organisations who have been able to quickly scale and outcompete their rivals, all through a more progressive and modernised approach to data engineering.

But that doesn't mean our approach is rushed, or short-sighted. Our typical client is tired of inheriting a legacy data infrastructure that needs to be constantly ripped up every five years.

Instead, we work with you to build the right platform for change, often by pulling in our data governance and data quality teams, or our operational performance and data strategy experts.

It's this cross-functional capability that ensures that whatever data engineering mission we're supporting, such as data science enablement with data lakes or data analytics platform, the final solution will stand the test of time and deliver on your strategic goals.

Working with the Oakland Data Engineering Team

Typically, we'll witness legacy data engineering that has lagged behind the aspirations of the business and is no longer fit for purpose, or in some cases it's a greenfield organisation with a blank canvas.

Due to the depth of our expertise, we're comfortable leading the project and helping you translate the art of the possible into a working design. (If you're searching for a low-budget team of pipeline developers, we're probably not the right fit).

All of our team have the right blend of 'old and new' technology expertise, helping you seamlessly transition from the legacy to the modern.

Yes, we've got the mandatory array of battle-hardened data scientists, data engineers, data analytics and cloud experts, but we blend our 'big-tech' pedigree with other resources, such as data governance, data quality and change management. (And that's before we've included our Agile project and program management experts!).

You also don't want to be blinded with science and left with a solution you can't understand and struggle to maintain. At Oakland, we're a transparent bunch, frequently sharing our approach through data science hackathons for example.

This openness spills over into our approach to delivering projects. It may be an over-used term, but we genuinely believe in a 'one team' approach. We relentlessly strive to include your teams in all aspects of the solution concept, design, delivery and assurance.

Our Approach

Our typical engagements cover the following:

- Discover: Determine the baseline of where you are at today and where you want to be. Identify and mobilise quick wins. We establish a clear point of reference from which work can begin. This enables your strategic vision to be built and defines the gap from your as is to that ambition.
- Define: Define a data capability to deliver on the vision for the future. We will design the strategy, operating model, and associated technology architecture to achieve the vision.
- Plan: We will establish the processes, standards, technology, and organizational changes to manage your information. We will go into more detailed design and begin to socialise the change for the deployment to come.
- Execute: We will build the technology and then roll out changes within the organisation in an agile fashion, learning along the way.

Pragmatically delivering change into the organisation, recognising that things will change.

- Adapt: The final stage is based on the mantra of continuously improve the capability in line with key performance indicators. This provides assurance that the deployment is fully embedded and value does not erode over time.