

Architecture Options Analysis service definition

Overview

Our Architecture Options Analysis service is crafted for local authorities in the public sector, providing an in-depth evaluation and comparison of alternative architectural designs for IT systems, with a strong emphasis on cloud compatibility, performance, and cost-effectiveness. This service tackles the decision-making challenges in digital transformations by assessing multiple options against organisational needs, helping to select the most suitable architecture that balances innovation, risk and value. It integrates with UK government directives, including the Government Digital Service (GDS) standards and National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) guidelines. Through rigorous, vendor-neutral analysis, we enable clients to achieve scalable, secure, and efficient architectures that enhance public service delivery, reduce long-term expenses and support compliance in a dynamic digital environment.

Service Scope and Approach

The service initiates with a collaborative requirements-gathering phase, involving stakeholders such as IT architects, business analysts, and procurement teams to define criteria functional needs, non-functional requirements, budget constraints and strategic goals. We then generate and evaluate a set of viable architecture options, drawing from current-state assessments.

Key elements of our approach include:

- **Options Generation:** Development of 3-5 tailored architecture alternatives, ranging from hybrid cloud models to fully cloud-native designs, incorporating elements like microservices, serverless computing, or containerisation using platforms such as AWS or Azure.
- **Comparative Analysis:** Multi-criteria evaluation using tools like decision matrices, scoring models, and trade-off analyses to assess each option on dimensions including cost performance metrics, security alignments, scalability potential and integration feasibility with legacy systems.
- **Risk and Benefit Assessment:** Identification of risks (e.g., migration complexities, vendor dependencies) and benefits (e.g. agility gains, cost savings), with quantitative modelling where possible.

Our methodology is iterative and evidence based. We maintain neutrality across cloud providers, ensuring recommendations align with public sector procurement rules and sustainability goals.

Deliverables

Clients receive a suite of decision-support outputs, including:

- A comprehensive options analysis report with visual tools like comparison tables and scoring dashboards.
- Detailed profiles for each option, covering pros/cons, cost projections, risk mitigations and alignment with strategic priorities.
- Executive summaries and presentation materials for governance boards, including scenario-based recommendations.
- Supporting artefacts such as evaluation templates and decision frameworks for future use.

All deliverables are delivered in accessible formats compliant with WCAG standards, facilitating integration into procurement or migration planning.

Engagement Model

Engagements usually run 5-9 weeks, adjusted for the number of options and organisational complexity, with flexible delivery modes (remote, on-site, or hybrid) to fit public sector schedules. We focus on interactive sessions for criteria validation and option refinement, promoting knowledge transfer to build internal decision-making capabilities. Pricing is fixed fee, scoped collaboratively, with phased options to match budget timelines.

Value Proposition

This service streamlines architecture selection, avoiding costly missteps and ensuring investments deliver maximum public value through optimised designs. Local authorities gain from reduced implementation risks, enhanced system performance, and potential savings in lifecycle costs, enabling initiatives like seamless citizen portals or data-driven services. Our public sector expertise yields resilient, future-ready architectures that foster innovation while adhering to GDPR, accessibility standards and government cloud policies.

This service is advisory, centred on evaluation and recommendation without including design implementation or technical builds, allowing for easy pairing with other G-Cloud services for complete transformation support.

