BestPath Service Definition: Cloud Networking Assessment

Service Overview

The Cloud Networking Assessment is a discovery and advisory service designed to help public sector organisations understand the current state of their cloud and hybrid networking environments. The service identifies technical, security, performance, and governance gaps and provides clear, prioritised recommendations to support informed decision-making and future cloud delivery.

This service is delivered in line with a DfIrst (Discovery First) approach and is vendor-neutral, independent, and outcome-focused.

Service Objectives

- Establish a clear baseline of the buyer's current cloud networking capability
- Identify risks, gaps, and constraints affecting security, performance, and resilience
- Assess alignment with organisational and regulatory requirements
- Provide a practical, prioritised roadmap for improvement

Scope of the Service

The Cloud Networking Assessment typically covers:

- Current-state cloud and hybrid network architecture
- Connectivity between on-premises, cloud, and third-party environments
- Network security controls, segmentation, and trust boundaries
- Identity and access considerations related to networking
- Performance, latency, availability, and resilience
- SD-WAN, edge, and remote connectivity models (where applicable)
- Cloud provider networking configurations
- Compliance and assurance considerations

The assessment is tailored to the buyer's environment and priorities.

Out of Scope

Unless explicitly agreed, the service does not include:

- Implementation or configuration changes
- Procurement or product resale
- Ongoing managed services
- Penetration testing or deep technical security testing
- Operational support beyond the assessment period

Approach and Methodology

The service is delivered using a structured, time-boxed approach:

1. **Initiation and Planning**
    - Confirm scope, objectives, and stakeholders
    - Agree assessment schedule and information requirements
2. **Discovery and Data Collection**
    - Stakeholder interviews and workshops
    - Review of existing documentation and configurations
    - Architecture and connectivity analysis
3. **Analysis and Gap Identification**
    - Assessment against target outcomes and best practice
    - Identification of risks, gaps, and dependencies
4. **Recommendations and Roadmap**
    - Prioritised, actionable recommendations
    - High-level target-state considerations

Deliverables

Buyers typically receive:

- Cloud networking assessment report
- Identified risks and gap register
- Prioritised recommendations and next steps
- High-level improvement roadmap
- Executive summary suitable for senior stakeholders

All deliverables are buyer-owned.

Service Duration

The service is normally delivered over 2–6 weeks, depending on scope, complexity, and stakeholder availability.

Buyer Responsibilities

The buyer is expected to:

- Provide access to relevant documentation and information
- Make key stakeholders available for interviews and workshops
- Review and provide feedback on draft outputs

Supplier Responsibilities

The supplier will:

- Deliver the service in line with the agreed scope and timetable
- Maintain confidentiality of buyer information
- Provide independent, vendor-neutral advice
- Communicate progress and risks clearly

Security and Data Protection

All information is handled in accordance with applicable data protection and information security requirements. Access to buyer information is restricted to authorised personnel, and data is retained only for the duration necessary to deliver the service.

Exit Management

The service concludes upon delivery of the agreed outputs. No ongoing dependency or lock-in is created. Buyers are free to use the outputs independently or with other suppliers.

Ordering and Pricing

The Cloud Networking Assessment is offered as a fixed-price, fixed-scope service under Lot 3 – Cloud Support Services. Pricing and timescales are agreed at order stage based on buyer requirements.

Service Benefits

- Improved understanding of cloud networking risks and readiness
- Reduced likelihood of security, performance, and resilience issues
- Informed decision-making for future cloud investment
- Strong foundations for compliant and effective cloud delivery