

Service Definition Document

Architecture Options Analysis Services





Architecture Options Analysis Services

Opencast provides Architecture Options Analysis services under G-Cloud Lot 3: Cloud Support Services, tailored to meet the needs of organisations seeking to migrate, optimise, or transform their digital and cloud-based services.

Our approach combines advisory, delivery and embedding of proven methodologies, practices, and tooling to support clients in making informed architectural decisions that align with business strategy and cloud migration goals.

Our Architecture Options Analysis services support organisational objectives:

- Strategic Cloud Adoption: Enabling informed migration and optimisation decisions.
- Standardisation: Aligning architecture analysis practices across departments where appropriate.
- Value for Money: Demonstrating measurable improvements in capability and efficiency.
- Capability Building: Uplifting capabilities through training and knowledge transfer aligned to recognised frameworks.

Service Features:

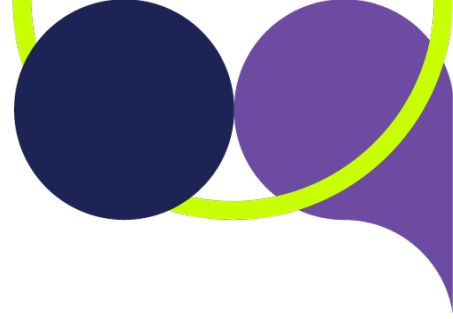
- Define business objectives and parameters for architectural decision-making
- Identify multiple architecture options for comparison and structured evaluation
- Establish evaluation criteria such as cost, risk, usability and feasibility
- Assess alignment with enterprise strategy and cloud migration goals
- Analyse technical feasibility and integration with existing systems
- Document pros and cons for each architectural option
- Perform risk assessment and impact analysis for all options
- Score options using decision matrix or weighted criteria
- Recommend preferred option with clear rationale and justification
- Outline next steps and roadmap for implementation

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Service Benefits:

- Improves decision-making by analysing multiple architectural alternatives
- Aligns architecture choices with business goals and priorities
- Delivers a holistic view of the current and target architecture
- Reduces risk through structured evaluation of trade-offs and impacts
- Optimises cost by objectively selecting the most value-driven option
- Enhances transparency through documented rationale for architectural decisions
- Supports stakeholder engagement and alignment on recommended solutions
- Identifies scalability and performance implications before implementation
- Facilitates compliance and governance alignment across architecture options
- Creates a clear roadmap for implementation and future evolution

Opencast's Architecture Options Analysis services provide the methodologies, tools, experience and expertise needed to make robust architectural decisions. By combining technical evaluation with strategic insights, we help organisations deliver better services while providing a robust, future-proof foundation for growth and innovation. Our approach is collaborative, transparent, and aligned with industry standards, ensuring measurable value from every cloud investment.

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About Opencast

Who we are

Opencast is an independently owned full-service UK technology consultancy specialising in designing, building, and running human-focused digital and technology solutions.

Opencast works at the heart of UK government, healthcare and innovative business to develop solutions that include support for critical systems and services and help for millions of people. Opencast delivers improved digital experiences, better operational performance, responsible emerging tech and innovation, and enhanced insights through data.

Opencast believes in making life better through the power of people and technology. Its vision is to make a positive impact on society through solutions that are simpler, more sustainable and fairer for all.

Who we work with

Opencast specialises in developing end-to-end enterprise solutions for government, healthcare and innovative business. Our public sector experience includes working with:

- Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS)
- Department for Education (DFE)
- Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC)
- Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)
- Government Digital Service (GDS)
- Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC)
- Home Office (HO)
- Marine Management Organisation (MMO)
- Ministry of Justice (MOJ)
- Ministry of Defence (MOD)
- NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA)
- NHS England (NHSE)

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Our team

Our teams have an excellent delivery track record, bringing years of technology and digital experience to our clients. Our people display qualities and behaviours that underpin our values.

Our values:

- We build trust
- We enable people
- We work together
- We do the right thing
- We make a difference

In practice that means our people are hard-working, smart self-starters who think independently and use their intuition to deliver for our clients with confidence and transparency.

Our people also have a strong sense of team and always treat each other with respect. Our people have experience working in both full Opencast teams, as well as mixed client and supplier teams.

Our culture empowers independent-minded people in our mission to do the right thing for our clients, our team and wider society: good teamwork to make life better.

Client Partnership

Opencast appoints a Client Relationship Director (CRD) at the start of our engagements to manage the partnership between the client and Opencast. The named CRD will be available to attend calls or visits on-site and will act as a point of collaboration and escalation where required.

The CRD will be tasked with creating a true partnership with the client and to ensure that maximum value is gained by the client from the partnership.

Typically, we also involve our senior consultancy team including our Directors of Capability and Practice Leads. Drawing on decades of experience, they bring other viewpoints and ideas for consideration, not just within the project space, but also in other technologies, services, or business.

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People Management

Opencast takes its people care very seriously. Our aim is to provide committed people who care about the success of both Opencast and our clients.

In addition to the CRD, our consultants benefit from dedicated People Experience Partners (PEEPs) that provide pastoral care, as well as close links in with our Practice Leads that lead our capability development. These roles are supported by our wider People Experience Team, ensuring that our people are supported from all sides.

In the unlikely event that a personnel change is required, Opencast work closely with the client to ensure a smooth transition and an effective handover.

People Vetting

Our consultants provide references and background checks to meet the requirements of the client. We clear all employees to BPSS level as a minimum, and many of our consultants have or are eligible for SC clearance. Opencast typically cover the costs of obtaining standard checks and references and will inform the client if there are any issues or delays to the vetting process prior to consultants starting work with the client.

Pricing & Quality of People

Opencast is proud of its reputation for quality and delivery and take great care in selecting the right people for the right assignments.

We have a rigorous interview process, conducting both competency-based and values-based interviews and assessments as part of the recruitment process. Our employees are often people who are already known to us or have been passed on by personal recommendations and the vast majority are permanent employees.

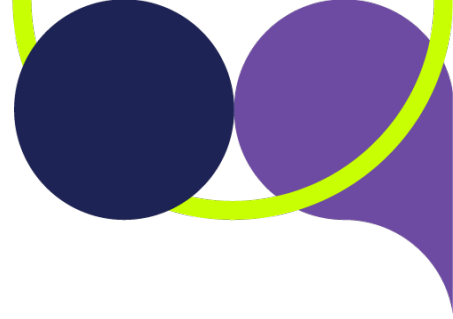
We can provide our services on either a Time & Materials (T&M) or Fixed Price basis to match your needs. For T&M services, please refer to our SFIA Rate Card.

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Value Adding Activities

Opencast recognise the strategic importance of our clients' projects, and to ensure the ongoing success of their services. We treat knowledge transfer and handover activities as first-class deliverables, setting up our clients for success.

Opencast work closely with its clients to:

- Provide additional ad-hoc project/delivery status updates as required
- Be available for advice and guidance for strategic or tactical next steps
- Provide information and collateral to facilitate stakeholder presentations
- Attend calls or assist directly with stakeholder meetings
- Provide guidance and opinions upon best practice
- Facilitate workshops or "brown bag" sessions to share experiences and knowledge and become active members of communities of practice
- Encourage networking between client sponsors and project staff to other trusted clients of Opencast for industry or technology sharing (i.e. other Government departments or health and social care organisations)

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