New Checklist Protects Organizations as they Move to the Cloud

Organizations moving to the cloud face many challenges, including addressing security, privacy, and regulatory requirements. In response to these challenges and bolstered by an international standard, Microsoft has established the Cloud Services Due Diligence Checklist.

The Cloud Services Due Diligence Checklist helps protect you by structuring a meaningful evaluation of cloud services.

Value of the Cloud Services Due Diligence Checklist:

- **Provide a tool to support meaningful evaluations** of cloud services. The Cloud Services Due Diligence Checklist provides an organized framework to collect and compare information from service providers. You can use information collected during the due diligence evaluation to quickly and thoroughly compare cloud services and service providers.
- **Encourage a thoroughly vetted move to the cloud** by inviting key decision makers to participate. By inviting technical, legal, procurement, and compliance teams, you can prevent roadblocks that could arise late in the drive to the cloud.
- **Protect your organization** by addressing following: (i) consider key compliance and regulatory requirements, (ii) define responsibilities between service providers and your team, and (iii) conduct a careful return on investment assessment.

Background: The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) released a new international standard that supports and protects organizations as they move to the cloud. ISO/IEC 19086-1 is commonly referred to as the "Cloud Service Level Agreement (SLA) Framework," and it addresses a set of considerations that should be included in cloud agreements. Currently, organizations are moving to the cloud with little or no due diligence evaluation which puts careers and organizations at risk. ISO/IEC 19086-1 will help: the standard provides a framework to help organizations conduct careful cloud service evaluations.

Microsoft established the Cloud Services Due Diligence Checklist based on the considerations raised in the international standard. The Checklist is a tangible resource that will empower organizations to conduct a meaningful due diligence evaluation of cloud services and providers.