10 BEST PRACTICES
for Cloud-based Application Delivery

You manage an application portfolio delivered from a heterogeneous environment comprised of on-premises data centers and, increasingly, the cloud hosting platforms. To better manage this complex application ecosystem you need to take a more holistic approach to application delivery. For your business to succeed you must be able to ensure high-performance and consistent availability of user experiences – regardless of application hosting platform, end-user location, or device.

Using our experience delivering thousands of applications from the cloud, we have collected the 10 best practices for developing your application delivery strategy

1. **Develop a solid strategy for expanding capacity.**
   You don't have a limitless budget to build data centers. To cost effectively manage future business growth, engage partners that make it possible for you to scale application delivery on-demand.

2. **Understand required solutions to overcome lack of user proximity to your applications.**
   The further users are from your application-hosting environment, the more likely they are to encounter slow performance due to Internet bottlenecks, poor availability, and low end-user adoption.

3. **Improve application performance by designing for delivery from the cloud.**
   As you consolidate, more users will be further from your applications. Application delivery solutions specifically designed for the cloud can offset performance compromises.

4. **Satisfy compliance standards, even in the cloud.**
   Compliance is not optional and "everyone's doing it" doesn't prevent fines. Make sure your cloud vendors make their processes transparent and give you recourse to audit them.

5. **Maintain business continuity by using solutions that are datacenter agnostic.**
   With little tolerance for downtime, businesses should consider using solutions that are datacenter agnostic, enabling you to load balance across multiple cloud providers, minimizing risk and preventing vendor lock-in.

BEST 10
PRACTICES FOR CLOUD
APPLICATION DELIVERY

Akamai has the most pervasive cloud optimization platform, with 137,000 servers in 87 countries within over 1,150 networks.

6. **Apply security across all enterprise applications, especially in the cloud.**

   It's challenging – and complicated – to implement security and firewalls across all your applications, regardless of whether they're hosted, on-premises, or in the cloud. Make sure your partners are able to enforce your organization's security policies to insulate your organization from a potential security breach.

7. **Know where your SaaS provider fits into your cloud platform.**

   To ensure optimal performance and 100% availability of your SaaS applications, your platform should be accessible, regardless of where your users are located. Be sure to ask your SaaS providers if they use a globally distributed application delivery platform.

8. **Whether cost reduction or productivity gains, have a clear goal for cloud.**

   As cloud becomes the infrastructure standard, enterprise goals will shift from cost reduction to productivity gains. To achieve these gains you will need to ensure unfettered access, high performance, and high end-user productivity.

9. **Ensure application delivery to the BYOD world.**

   In order to satisfy the demands of a growing consumerized workforce, enterprises must deliver their applications to a 'Bring Your Own Device' world. Your applications and cloud infrastructure must support all end-user device types and allow you to scale optimizations for delivering mobile applications and Web sites.

10. **Have the right solution to manage your data across multiple sources.**

    In the era of Big Data, your ability to act on data is directly related to how quickly you can integrate, ingest, aggregate, and analyze it. You need a solution that allows you to transmit data from multiple cloud silos to a centralized analytics environment as quickly and reliably as possible.

@Akamai #NextGenADC   **Share** on Facebook   **Post** on LinkedIn

Application delivery strategies must evolve to take advantage of everything that the cloud has to offer, while also satisfying the demands of an increasingly global workforce that requires anytime, anywhere access. Leverage Akamai's cloud-based application delivery platform to empower your business to innovate, reduce costs, increase end-user productivity, and leverage the cloud to its full potential. To learn more visit our Web site for access to valuable technical resources such as the new Forrester report: *Fuse Business Acceleration Technologies To Optimize User Experiences.*
Download the PDF at: www.akamai.com/cloud

Akamai *FASTER FORWARD*