

## The UK Government's Cloud Strategy (G-Cloud)

The strategy for G-Cloud remains to be published at the time of writing. However, from information available via the web (John Suffolk, the UK Government's Chief Information Officer maintains a [blog](#)) we know the following.

The strategy has 10 strands.

1. **Standardise and simplify the desktop.** Deliver 80 percent of central government desktops through a shared utility service by 2015. Stop reinventing the design wheel, commoditise what should be commodity. Drive down price.
2. **Standardise, rationalise and simplify the plethora of networks.** Build with the telecommunications industry the "Public Sector Network (PSN). An open market approach to joined-up secure networking for the Public Sector. Secure, ubiquitous, service-model based with a price some 30% lower than what is paid today.
3. **Rationalise the data centre estate.** Reduce from the central government 130+ (mainly outsourced) to c9-12. Design a data centre eco system that is scalable, secure, green and economical.
4. **Deliver against Open source, open standards** Reuse [February 2009 Strategy](#). Buy at the "crown" not at an individual public body; treat proprietary software the same as open source (as in it should be available to all Public Servants); level the price comparison so full entry and exist cost to use the software must be taken into account.

Surrounding those four elements are two "wrapper" strategies:

1. **Green IT:** Follows from [June 2008 strategy](#). Each of the elements must conform to the Green IT strategy.
2. **Information Security and Assurance:** Information security requirements based on the [National Information Assurance Strategy](#) (published in June 2007) and the [Data Handling Requirements](#) (published in June 2008) together with the Security Planning Framework.

The above elements inform the design and thinking about the establishment of a UK onshore, private **Government Cloud or "G-Cloud"**. In essence infrastructure as a service, middleware/platforms as a service and software as a service. In relation to SaaS, a **Government Application Store ("G-AS")** is also planned.

These six strategic elements have four other supporting strategies:

1. **Shared Services:** Ensure wherever possible government shares everything... not just HR, Finance etc, but architectures, designs, solutions, people etc.
2. **Reliable Project Delivery.** Start the right projects, execute them to successful completion and deliver the social outcomes and business benefits. Ensure central government departments utilise portfolio management and best in class benefits realisation processes.
3. **Supplier Management.** Central Government is c65% outsourced. Ensure the right professional skills to deal with suppliers and build the most appropriate relationship with them.
4. **Professionalising IT Enabled business change.** Grow the knowledge, skills and experience of the public sector's approx. 50,000 IT professionals.