Bring Your Cloud Service Use Out of the Shadows

Cloud services can deliver big technology benefits to midsized companies who don’t have the budget to buy expensive hardware and software or employ a large staff of full-time IT professionals. Cloud services can help you rapidly introduce new services to meet your business’s needs, and make you more agile and competitive.

However, we often find that there are up to 15 times more cloud services in use than known by IT teams. These unauthorized cloud services can put your data at risk if cloud service providers (CSPs) don’t meet security or compliance standards. And costs rise as employees use redundant services.

With Cisco® Cloud Consumption as a Service (Cloud Consumption aaS), you can discover what cloud services are being used and protect your organization by identifying cloud risks. With these capabilities, you’ll have a broad view of your organization’s cloud usage (Figure 1), helping you to better meet the needs of your internal clients and predict future cloud needs. You’ll get data security tools and detailed risk profiles for each cloud service provider, which will help you uncover potential security or compliance risks. You’ll also be able to compare providers and find the right cloud services to meet your business, risk, and compliance requirements.

The insight provided by Cloud Consumption aaS can help you become a strategic cloud manager, efficiently and securely delivering the right services, at the right time, and at the right cost.

Identify Potential Risks with Greater Visibility into Your Cloud Use

For greater visibility, Cisco Cloud Consumption aaS offers:

- **Cloud discovery:** Discover and monitor ongoing cloud service use.
- **Usage and trending:** Analyze usage trends and understand CSP usage patterns. Monitor websites accessed by employees.
- **User identification:** Identify individuals using cloud services.
- **Advanced categorization and filtering:** Sort CSPs by risk, by category, and remove secondary services.
To help manage risk and compliance, Cloud Consumption aaS offers:

- **CSP risk profiles**: Review CSP risk profiles derived by comparing the vendor against nearly 150 industry-defined cloud risk controls. View lists of CSP certifications.

- **Data security**: Explore CSPs by high-risk categories. Prioritize risk mitigation actions by viewing a CSP risk distribution.

- **Cloud service anomaly alerts**: Detect anomalous services and abnormal usage patterns to identify threats to your network.

- **Trigger-based alerts**: Create your own service watch-list with trigger-based alerts to watch spikes in usage or discover high-risk usage anomalies.

For research and benchmarking, Cloud Consumption aaS lets you:

- **Discover the right cloud services** to meet your business, risk, and compliance requirements. Compare cloud service vendor profiles to validate your choice of providers.

- **Benchmark your cloud usage** data against your peer groups to understand industry norms and practices.

**Gain More Control over Your Cloud Use**