



# CLOUD FIRST CAREERS EPISODE 1: SPECIALIZATION IN CLOUD

## PODCAST TRANSCRIPT

**Chhavi Sachdev:** Hello and welcome to another episode of the Accenture Cloud First Careers Podcast. My name is Chhavi Sachdev, I'm your host for this series. Join me as I engage in conversations with Cloud professionals at Accenture. Listen to how they do extraordinary things with Cloud. This is the Accenture Cloud First Careers Podcast.

Cloud is vast, and opportunities are limitless. Tech is changing at a speed we have never seen before. How do we navigate this space? In this episode, we have two guests who took different career paths, but ended up at Accenture handling separate aspects of Cloud. Charlotte Chan joined Accenture in Singapore right out of college and currently works as a senior functional cloud migration analyst.

**Charlotte Chan:** What I do on a day-to-day basis is a lot of project stakeholder management. And in terms of the diversity of the projects, I've managed to be on different kinds of projects related to cloud infrastructure and transformational pieces of work ranging from public sector to private sector, all the way from oil and mining to biopharmaceuticals.

**Chhavi:** Meanwhile in Johannesburg, Orika Orrie, a Cloud Transformation Associate Manager, focuses on security. When she saw how ingrained security is in every area of Cloud, she was really interested in its applications.

**Orika Orrie:** Cloud security is in all areas of the

cloud. You can't develop in the cloud, you can't implement in the cloud, you can't provision in the cloud, without ensuring that your security is up to date. In this day and age, with hackers and malicious entities trying to gain access, it's really important to ensure that your security is tight.

**Chhavi:** She explains the checklist they keep in mind while working in security.

**Orika:** We ensure that data is safe through a layered approach. We implement security from the foundation all the way up to your data. This ensures that we have your network secured, ensures that anyone who gets into your cloud environment is authorized and that they have the correct permissions. We ensure that we have logging and monitoring in place so that anything that's done in the cloud is recorded and can be audited, and that nothing untoward is being done.

**Chhavi:** Orika says that working in security gives her a sense of satisfaction that she's keeping her clients' important data safe and secure. And Charlotte tells me her job feels rewarding especially when Cloud migration leads to large-scale impact, like the time when she was a coordinator for a nationwide cloud migration project.



**Charlotte:** This cloud migration involves migration of almost terabytes of data in a time constrained timeline, and it was highly critical because of this end user application where you provide the municipality as well as citizens with 24/7 access to municipalities services. If we were to look at a layer deeper in terms of transformational impact that my work has brought to the clients access secure cloud technology strategy in order to optimize their business outcomes. When we're deploying such a cloud migration solution, there is a double helix effect in the way that there is both added value to both shareholder and stakeholder sites. I was helping to migrate terabytes of data across from an old cloud to a new, more secure cloud that could serve the nation.

**Chhavi:** At this point you might be wondering how you can get started on your own cloud career journey. Orika gives advice on the best approach to getting into Cloud security.

**Orika:** If someone's looking into getting into Cloud Security, don't be scared by the fact that it's broad and multifaceted. With cloud security, you would need to know to implement your security properly. For example, if you're setting up your VPN from a client to AWS, and it's a specific VPN, you would need to know how to set up your security correctly so that data travels where it should, and access is granted only where it should be. You'd need to be able to set up your identity provider according to what the client needs your permission boundaries, so that permissions are correct. You would also need to ensure that your security groups and your network access controllers are correct. Security is in all facets. So even if you want to ensure that you have a broad knowledge of security and are able to implement it in your specific area, go for it and always ensure that your systems are secure.

**Chhavi:** Orika talks about how Accenture has

played an important role in helping her excel at Cloud Security.

**Orika:** Accenture helped me in my cloud security journey by allowing me access firstly to a Cloud Guru, which is a tool which helps study for the AWS certifications. And then once I had my certifications, Accenture really helped me by putting me on projects, which was specific to security, as they knew this was my interest. Once I got into security, and I started working in the field, I've met colleagues from all over the world, America, UK, India, and these colleagues are amazing. They keep you up to date, they have a Team's channel, which has new information about security and the security world. If there's a blog, which has something which affects the way we've been doing security, we meet up and we discuss it, and we have assets to develop, which then improve our security posture within Accenture.

**Chhavi:** Apart from security, there are also other areas to explore in Cloud, as Charlotte explains.

**Charlotte:** There are just so many different types of roles ranging from functional ones like mine, to technical ones. So they could be in various other departments such as service management, as well as digital workspace as well as more towards the infrastructure and engineering angle, whereby that will be much more technical, whereby you're looking at architectures helping the clients understand a little bit more of reforming the IT processes.

What really struck a chord in me is how companies managed to transform the IT landscape with cloud for the better. And not only value adds the company's stakeholders, but it helps the companies focus on trying to provide better outcomes, more equitable, where positive outcomes for both the employees as well as the society.



**Chhavi:** Charlotte loves driving projects at scale and creating impact. She also believes her combination of understanding both tech infrastructure and communications help her work better with clients.

**Charlotte:** Being able to work with stakeholders on the ground, I have realized that's where my unique sweet spot lies, in terms of providing this unique and diverse experience to the table, where I am able to understand the technology behind what we're trying to provide to clients, at the same time, be able to work really well with clients and stakeholders on the ground, to ensure that teams are also being coordinated in order to execute at scale.

**Chhavi :** With all this experience under her belt, Charlotte has also learned some tricks of the trade.

**Charlotte:** In cloud roles unless you're applying for technical ones, you don't need a cloud certification in order to apply to a job. There's plenty of opportunities after that to learn on the job, or to upgrade or upskill yourself while on the job. There are just so many free cloud courses and resources available on the net. You just have to search, watch a few videos, and most importantly, is to just network and speak to as many people as possible.

**Chhavi:** Wow, who knew there could be so many different ways in which you could engage and work in Cloud. Do come back for the next episode in this podcast series where we plan to go deeper into the expanding role and future of Cloud with remote work. This is the Accenture Cloud First Careers Podcast.

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