



CLOUD FIRST CAREERS EPISODE 2: REMOTE WORK 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. In previous episodes we've looked at how tech is changing at speed and at scale and how Cloud is helping shape the world. The perception towards Cloud has evolved and many now recognize that Cloud is an absolute necessity for companies to stay up to speed. In this episode, we discuss the expanding roles in Cloud brought about by market shifts and changing customer expectations. We have two guests to share their insights on how Cloud is already a big part of our lives and will only grow in the coming years with the expansion of remote work. Ashok Kumar is a lead cloud architect from Accenture's Pune office in India and he helps clients in financial services with Cloud adoption. He leads a team that develops architecture and code for clients to adopt and migrate to Cloud.

He says it took him a while to convince himself to move into Cloud but now his sentiment on the segment is bullish.

Ashok Kumar: The first time I heard about cloud is, I think it was 2011, but I realized that cloud is not for me, I thought that it is more infrastructure sharing, compute and storage sharing. And I didn't go with the Cloud at that time. But in 2016, when Netflix, Whopay, and Airbnb, and all these organizations who came with the major transformation in the industry in their respective areas, there was one thing in common for all of them: they have all been borne into Cloud. And that's where I realized that cloud is not only the sharing of infrastructure, sharing of compute, sharing of storage, but it is more than that. It's bringing agility and innovation. So, I deliberately picked a project where I will get the opportunity to work on the cloud. From 2016 onwards, pretty much I'm in cloud in various aspects.

Chhavi: Although Ashok has a background in microservices and Java, he switched to microservices and Cloud in 2016, and hasn't looked back since. Adriana Salopa, a cloud infrastructure and mobilization lead at Accenture



Sao Paulo, Brazil also looks to Cloud as a growing industry.

Adriana Salopa: Cloud over the years has evolved from an innovative concept into a disruptive approach. Today, for me, cloud computing, it's a kind of a booming industry in which organizations continue to push the boundaries of what is possible. Businesses for now have been adopting cloud services looking for better services and long-term cost savings. So that's amazing, right?

Chhavi: Adriana has watched the space as closely as Ashok, for even longer. She looks at Cloud as more than just infrastructure sharing. She believes it aids innovation.

Adriana: Cloud applications and services allow organizations to be more agile and to innovate faster, especially in this environment that we are living right now, with everybody working from home. Cloud solutions are the backbone to support this kind of remote work. Cloud solutions are boosting in productivity across most industries. Companies will continue to lean on cloud application services to quicken the way that they are going to the market, and to enable employees to continue to be more productive. It can provide a support to the employees to do their jobs anytime, from anywhere.

Chhavi: As more companies look at moving their data to the Cloud, there is going to be an urgent need for Cloud experts in this field to help them make this transition.

Ashok: These innovations will be driven by some kind of, say, Cloud Platform, because cloud provides limitless resources to do innovation. That's where I believe cloud is going to play a key role in coming years.

Chhavi: Cloud isn't just helping companies innovate and reach customers, it is also helping

employees stay connected with each other as remote work becomes more and more the norm.

Adriana: Today, regardless of your geographical location, everybody's using collaborative solutions to connect with work force, with clients, with partners.

Chhavi: There's no doubt that work culture will continue to evolve globally. Ashok, who started with microservices and now focuses on cloud security and Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, has some really wonderful advice for people who want to get into this space. He believes that for anyone who wishes to venture into Cloud, the first step is to take stock of their strengths and bring them along.

Ashok: Suppose somebody is coming into Cloud with 10 years of IT experience, don't do away with the core expertise, bring it along. So just like somebody coming from testing background, somebody come from SAP or somebody coming from development background, somebody .Net, Java developer, all these, they have to utilize a primary skill, and then add on the cloud expertise and see how they can help different organizations to adopt the cloud. Their primary skill, and what they have learned in the IT industry, will still remain for so many years. But cloud is going to be a platform where they can apply those skills to enable these technologies to work on Cloud.

Chhavi: So, definitely it's an attractive field to enter if it suits. And to upskill? We touched upon certifications in episode 1 of the Accenture Cloud First Careers podcast series where Avnish Mishra spoke about the importance of regularly taking up certification courses. Ashok adds more to that advice. He says, plan well and be meticulous.

Chhavi: Ashok adds more to that advice. He says, plan well and be meticulous.



Ashok: Whenever they are planning to, say attend certain certifications in cloud, keep it as time bound, plan for it, prepare for it and go and complete it. Don't stretch too much in terms of preparing for a certification, keep it between one to three months of timeframe.

Chhavi: With Cloud having expanded its reach from being about shared storage to something that enables innovation, there's more opportunities here than we could ever imagine. We touched upon some of those opportunities in episode 2 but here are Ashok's strong suggestions.

Ashok: So, they have to understand that what new innovations cloud is bringing are being driven by the Cloud. Look for the trainings materials available and there are various initiatives by organizations like Accenture. Look for reports from Gartner's which have published at what next in the cloud or in this space, AI ML, we definitely know is going to be the future. Data IoT, these are the things which are going to be the future.

Chhavi: Ashok further paints a picture on what the future of Cloud is going to look like. And his outlook is optimistic.

Ashok: Most of the organizations were adopting cloud, choosing one of the cloud providers as a platform, but now we will see more and more hybrid kind of, say, patterns emerging. So most of the organizations will go for hybrid cloud. There'll be a lot of migrations, will try to

automate as much as possible, move away from the manual interventions in their IT processes. But in terms of long term, I believe that there will be key role played by AI and ML IoT, so IoT may not be long term, but it's going to start or it's already happening in various industries. The key change which we will see are the key innovations brought by the cloud in various industries.

Chhavi: Adriana agrees. In fact, she takes it a step further and says when it comes to Cloud, the future is now.

Adriana: Companies need flexibility, business agility is needed to speed up go to market, processes need to innovate fast. In the end cloud is here to support these strategies. So that's already a reality. In the past, we used to see these, and described it as "the future of Cloud", but again, the future is now. Every company is living this kind of digital transformation.

Chhavi: The role of Cloud continues to expand in each of our lives. And with the whole world looking at remote work as the norm or at least as an option, Cloud is here to stay. Cloud isn't the future -- as Adriana says: it is now. Do come back for the next episode in this podcast series in which we talk about Work Culture and Diversity in Cloud. This is the Accenture Cloud First Careers Podcast.

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