

EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

THE CLOUD CODEX

CLOUDSCAPE

the **451** group

ABOUT THE 451 GROUP

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New York

20 West 37th Street, 6th Floor
New York, NY 10018
Phone: 212.505.3030
Fax: 212.505.2630

London

37-41 Gower Street
London, UK WC1E 6HH
Phone: +44 (0)20.7299.7765
Fax: +44 (0)20.7299.7799

San Francisco

140 Geary Street, 9th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94108
Phone: 415.989.1555
Fax: 415.989.1558

Boston

52 Broad Street, 2nd Floor
Boston, MA 02109
Phone: 617.261.0699
Fax: 617.261.0688

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ABOUT CLOUDSCAPE

CloudScape, the new interdisciplinary research and advisory program from The 451 Group and Tier1 Research, provides detailed insight, advice and analysis targeting cloud practitioners.

CloudScape draws on the unique expertise of The 451 Group, with its 10-year history of in-depth analysis of grid, utility and cloud computing, and Tier1 Research, the leading analyst company covering hosting, Internet infrastructure and IT services.

Insight is delivered via daily commentary, long-format reports, analyst advisory services, events and webinars.

INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

‘Cloud computing’ is one of the hottest terms in IT today. Yet if one asks what it means, a dozen answers will emerge, many of them steeped in ‘marketecture,’ as vendors redefine hardware, software and service offerings in light of the newest fad. But that is not satisfactory – cloud computing is not just whatever a product manager says it is on a given day. There must be some level playing field, some criteria from a neutral third party defined in some way other than simply that which makes certain vendors happy.

The 451 Group’s Cloud Codex emerged from a long series of discussions, arguments and impassioned pleas. No effort was made to triangulate or to please the largest number of people possible; such efforts rarely lead to true insight. Instead, we began with a blank whiteboard and a vision of IT that seems to be hovering just over the horizon – ready to be actualized but tantalizingly out of reach right now. The path to achieving that vision in a reasonable time frame must begin with answering a set of basic questions, and that’s what the Cloud Codex is all about. These questions include:

- What are cloud services?
- What are the criteria – hard and fast – for defining a cloud?
- What are the different deployment models for an enterprise cloud?
- Which cloud services will providers offer?
- What features must be developed in order for cloud computing to reach a level of general deployment?