



Your Perfect Cloud Role: 4 Questions To Get Clarity On Your Cloud Journey.

Introduction

Instructions

#1 - The role in cloud I'm aiming for is...

#2 - I will be successful in this role because...

#3 - The FIVE skills I will learn are...

#4 - The skills I will NOT learn are...

Some Final Words

Introduction

Hello! I'm Lou, creator of openupthecloud.com 🙌 I've been teaching people cloud ☁️ and helping them get their start and grow their careers in the cloud industry for many years now. I get requests every day from people asking: "Hey Lou! Will you mentor me!?". The challenge is not that I don't want to help (I really do!) but it's that I simply don't have the available time. The great news for you is that nearly every conversation starts with the same questions that I ask, so I can "systemise" this approach.

In this document I'm going to show you the questions I ask people looking to get their start in the cloud industry, and critically I'll explain to you **why I ask these questions**. If you put in the hard work of filling out this template, you'll get *immense clarity* on your journey into the cloud industry. When asking others for feedback, you'll get far better answers, and ultimately land your job faster.

Sound good? Let's get to it!

Instructions

1. **Fill in all four spaces below with the 📝 icon (complete in <1 day)** - Create a first draft of your plan immediately. The first plan doesn't have to be perfect, you'll update it. For each section we'll also talk about:
 - ❓ **Why is this step important?** - To see why you shouldn't skip the step.
 - 💭 **The questions to ask yourself** - To help you get clarity.
 - 📖 **Further reading** - What to research to help you fill in the section.
2. **Research (complete in <1 month)** - With your draft done, research the roles, tools and skills that exist in the cloud industry. I suggest to take less than 1 month to do this, as you want to be informed, but you also don't want to spend forever in "analysis paralysis".
3. **Get started, get feedback and iterate** - After you've done your research, and filled out the template, it's time to get started. Show your learning plan to any friends that you have in the industry, or even share your plan online in communities for their feedback.

#1 - The role in cloud I'm aiming for is...



❓ Why is this step important?

"The cloud" is not a role. Not all roles in the cloud are the same. Different roles require different skills. The skills you need must align to the role you want. This is your north star.



Further reading

Getting into cloud is **not just cloud engineers**. Take a look into some of the following roles (this is a non-exhaustive list).

More technical (coding) roles - *Cloud Engineer, Site Reliability Engineer, Cloud Security, Solutions Architect, Technical Architect, DevOps, Solution Engineering, Frontend Engineer, Backend Engineer, UX designer, UI designer.*

Less technical (coding) roles - *Business Analyst, Product Manager, Scrum Master, Engineering Manager, Agile Coach, Program Manager, Sales, Customer Success, Help Desk / Support.*



Questions to ask yourself

- * What skills do you have that could transfer to this role?
- * Are you interested more in people, or in data?
- * Do you like to work alone, or more in a team?
- * What skills do you have that you could transfer to this role?
- * What are the jobs available in your local area?



Traps

- * Don't ignore your non-tech or cloud experience if you have it
- * Your end goal role doesn't have to be the role you start with
- * Don't spend forever obsessing to find "the perfect role"
- * Be careful bouncing between roles as a way to procrastinate

#2 - I will be successful in this role because...



Why is this step important?

It's important that you do your homework to pick a role that you can actually be successful in. Sometimes people focus on things like the \$\$\$ rewards of certain roles, or often see roles advised online. It's important that you think deeply about what it takes to be successful in interviewing, and landing those roles. That's why I ask you this question.



Questions to ask yourself

- * What do you know about what this role does?
- * What does it take to be successful at this role?
- * What about your current skills makes you a good fit for the role?
- * Is this role a good fit given my level of experience?
- * Are there sufficient jobs with this role profile in my area?



Traps

- * Thinking you have the skills purely because \$\$\$ compensation looks good
- * Focusing on *why you want* the role, and not *why you can do* the role
- * Not being realistic about your current skills
- * Not researching well enough the required experience for the role
- * Not looking into available jobs in your current area
- * Not appreciating the level of training you'll have to do
- * Looking for a cloud job because there's "less coding or programing"

#3 - The FIVE skills I will learn are...

Why is this step important?

I see far too many beginners focussing on too much. Often skills in the cloud are duplicates. Learning Jenkins AND GitHub Actions is probably a waste of time, these tools aren't the same, but they're pretty similar. Lots of companies are willing to let you learn another similar tool if you know a related one already very well. The purpose of five skills is as a forcing function to keep your focus. You need to keep your focus.



Questions to ask yourself

- * Are any of these skills “overlapping”? (e.g. multiple skills to do the same thing?)
- * Do these skills compliment each other?
- * Do these skills compliment the role that you want?
- * What do you know about what this role does?
- * What does it take to be successful at this role?
- * What about your current skills makes you a good fit for the role?
- * Is this role a good fit given my level of experience?
- * Are there sufficient jobs with this role profile in my area?



Traps

- * Not getting feedback on your chosen skills
- * Taking feedback from people with little or no experience
- * Picking skills that you're excited about but aren't complimentary
- * Spending time on learning skills outside of your main skills
- * Spending forever “researching” the perfect skills to learn
- * Constantly changing your mind based on the next YouTube video you see

#4 - The skills I will NOT learn are...

Why is this step important?

To help keep you on track to your goals, you need to avoid distractions. I also want you to think deeply about the skills you're learning, and identify the things that you can avoid learning. What you don't learn is often as important as what you do learn. Here you can make an explicit list of all those things that excite you, but are a risk of becoming a distraction to you.



Questions to ask yourself

- * Which are the less important skills for my role?
- * Which are the things I'm super excited to learn (but could be a distraction)?
- * Which skills overlap and I could focus on only one, not duplicates



Traps

- * Thinking that all skills are necessary
- * Not taking the time to list all the skills which do excite you (be courageous!)

Some Final Words

That's it. If you fill out these four questions, I believe that you're going to be asking yourself the right questions and getting closer to clarity on your direction. Use the answers to these four questions when you ask others for advice, as they'll be able to better understanding your thought process and how you arrived at your current thinking. Breaking into cloud can be a long and challenging journey, you're going to need grit and tenacity to stick with it. Keep reminding yourself why you started. Never give up.

I look forward to sharing your "I got the job" post.

Lou

