

Absa collabs with AWS to train staff in cloud computing skills

Absa has launched a cloud incubator initiative in collaboration with Amazon Web Services to enhance its cloud computing skills across its operations in Africa. The bank is promoting cloud fluency as part of its broader efforts to promote learning, experimentation and innovation across the organisation.



Andrew Baker | image supplied

By migrating to the cloud, companies can eliminate the expense of building and managing on-site data centres while gaining the ability to reduce infrastructure costs and scale up and down rather than paying for excess on-premises capacity.

“Cloud is rapidly becoming the norm for large companies, a trend that was accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which prompted a step-change in digital solutions,” said Andrew Baker, Absa group chief technology officer.

“Using cloud allows us to store much more data cost-efficiently, compared with physical data centres. Cloud has already improved our ability to manage and access data and will enable us to bring products to market faster.”

World Wide Worx’s *Cloud in Africa 2020* report reveals that 84% of African organisations surveyed viewed cloud computing as cost-effective. Cloud investment is expected to increase significantly this year, with 56% of respondents estimating that a quarter of applications will have moved to the cloud by the end of 2021, according to the report.

AWS’s Skills Guild initiative

To support its cloud transformation, Absa has launched an internal cloud incubator programme to participate in AWS’s Skills Guild initiative, a comprehensive cloud skills training programme designed to help large enterprise organisations

accelerate their cloud adoption journey and build cloud fluency for their employees. The cloud incubator initiative will equip more than 1 500 staff across Absa's African operations with advanced cloud computing skills this year.

"The AWS Skills Guild offers enterprises a comprehensive approach to organisation-wide cloud enablement, and is designed to not only impart cloud skills, but create excitement, momentum, and accelerate paths to innovation. AWS Skills Guild is based on our experience building enterprise-wide skills transformation plans for our customers across the globe, including National Australia Bank, Deloitte, Kmart Group, and many more," explained Chris Erasmus, commercial sector leader for AWS in South Africa.

"Accelerating cloud adoption will have a significant impact on Absa's ability to innovate, offer new value propositions, and play a meaningful role in our customers' and clients' experiences," said Baker.

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