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Shafaq Naheed Khan
University of Dubai

Mathew Nicho
Zayed University

Haifa Takruri
University of Salford

Zakaria Maamar
Zayed University

Faouzi Kamoun
ESPRIT University

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MANCHESTER

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Khan, S, Nicho, M, Takturi-Rizk, H, Maamar, Z and Kamoun, F

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Role assigning and taking in cloud computing

Shafaq Naheed Khan, University of Dubai, UAE, +971 4 5566 941, skhan@ud.ac.ae

Mathew Nicho, Zayed University, UAE, +971 4 402 1861, mathew.nicho@zu.ac.ae

Haifa Tahruri, University of Salford, UK, +44 (0) 161 295 3139, h.tahruri-rizk@salford.ac.uk

Zakaria Maamar, Zayed University, UAE, +971 4 402 1461, zakaria.Maamar@zu.ac.ae

Faouzi Kamoun, ESPRIT. ESPRIT University, Tunisia, +216 99 423 944, faouzi.kammoun@esprit.tn

Abstract

The widespread use of cloud computing (CC) has brought to the forefront information technology (IT) governance issues, rendering the lack of expertise in handling CC-based IT controls a major challenge for business enterprises and other societal organizations. In the cloud-computing context, this study identifies and ranks the determinants of role assigning and taking by IT people. The study's integrative research links CC and IT governance to humane arrangements, as it validates and ranks role assigning and taking components through in-depth interviews with twelve IT decision-makers and forty-four Information Systems Audit and Control Association (ISACA) members, engaged as panelists in a Delphi technique implementation. The empirical results recognize skills and competencies as prioritized determinants of IT controls, while IT security, risk and compliance emerge as capabilities crucial to evaluate and manage CC service providers. Despite the study's generalizability limitations, its findings highlight future research paths and provide practical guidelines toward the high technology of open-market IT self-governance. The latter entails the humane flows of collegial control and responsibility, as opposed to the inhumane flows of authority and power, under the sequestered technique of the bureaucratically-hierarchized IT hetero-governance.

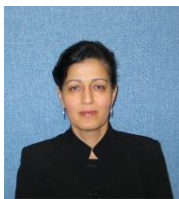
Key words: cloud computing IT controls, role assignment, role taking components, cloud computing governance



Shafaq Khan is an Assistant Professor at the College of Engineering and Information Technology, University of Dubai. She holds a PhD degree in Computer Science from Salford University and MSc in Computing and Information Systems from University of Hull. She is a certified ethical hacker (CEH), SAP certified business associate, certified project management professional (PMP) and cloud infrastructure and services (CIS) associate. Her research interests are in IS management, cloud computing, IT governance, IS security and green computing.



Mathew Nicho is an Assistant Professor at the College of Technological Innovation at Zayed University, Dubai, United Arab Emirates, teaching and researching in the cyber security domain. Prior to this he was a lecturer in cybersecurity and IT governance at the School of Computing and Digital Media at Robert Gordon University, Scotland. He obtained his PhD from the Auckland University of Technology, Auckland, New Zealand. His teaching and research are in the socio technical aspects of cyber-attacks, advanced persistent threats, as well as IT governance. His research outputs have appeared in journals and conferences namely Communications of the Association of Information Systems, Information and Computer Security, International Journal of Information Security and Privacy, and conferences namely Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences, International Conference on Mathematical Methods, Models and Architectures for Computer Network Security (to name a few).



Haifa Tahriri is a full Professor at the university of Salford, UK. She obtained her BSc degree in Electrical Engineering from Birzeit University in Palestine, 1984, and her MSc and PhD in Instrumentation and Measurement from UMIST, UK, 1987 & 1990. An electronics engineer with a multidisciplinary practice, Prof Tahriri's current teaching focuses on mobile and wireless networking. Her research focuses on integrating networking technologies and instrumentation, in particular wireless sensor networks and their applications in intelligent buildings, networked appliances, precision agriculture and energy saving. She supervises a number of multidisciplinary PhD studies including sensor networks, mobile networks, e-commerce and gender in engineering and science. She also has extensive experience in successfully managing EU research and higher education funded projects.



Zakaria Maamar is Professor in the College of Technological Innovation at Zayed University, Dubai campus. His research interests include mobile computing, business process management, and social computing. Dr. Maamar has published several articles in peer-reviewed journals and conference proceedings. He has a PhD in computer science from Laval University, Canada.



Faouzi Kamoun is a Professor at ESPRIT School of Engineering, Tunisia. He holds a PhD in Electrical Engineering from Concordia University and an MBA in Management from McGill University. Prior to joining ESPRIT in 2015, he held various academic and administrative positions at Zayed University and at the University of Dubai, UAE. His research interests include technology management, applied research on IoT/smart-cities and social innovation.

1. Introduction

Cloud computing (CC) has emerged as one of the hottest topics in the field of information and communication technologies (ICT) [68]. Some industry experts predicted that by 2018, more than 60% of enterprises will have at least half of their infrastructure in the CC environment [11], and that by the same year at least half of the information technology (IT) spending will be devoted to CC projects [10]. The rapid adoption of CC by large as well as small scale organizations [63] poses new challenges for CEOs as it requires organizations to transfer (some) IT controls of computing resources to cloud service providers (CSPs) [47]. IT control is a process that provides assurance for information and information services, and helps mitigate risks associated with use of technology [26].

CC users and CSPs have different perspectives concerning the control over the IT resources. In a classical (non-cc) datacenter, organizations govern IT systems by assigning their staff to the internal IT controls. Contrarily, when an organization places selected organizational assets in the custody of a CSP, it cedes control over these assets to the CSP, yet retains accountability for security and regulatory compliances [41]. In this regard, one major issue organizations are facing is the data owner's loss of control in the case of CC migration [37].

CC is creating transformation in the nature of employment [89] that influences human-development resource skill sets and tasks [87]. Technical and managerial capabilities within an organization determine how well CC services achieve the organization's goals and potential competitive strategy. Like many other highly-advanced technologies, CC has the potential to change the nature of IT tasks and the associated skills and efficiency, calling for organizational changes, new tasks and new styles of management [88]. Pioneering business enterprises and other societal organizations need to transform into self-organizing and self-governing societal human systems [27]. A self-organizing business

in a CC environment must have the capabilities to change strategic direction by redefining work system and work contents and by creating new opportunities for individual development and career path transitions. Therefore, governance in CC requires a new mindset that would challenge existing IT policies, roles and responsibilities and power hierarchies[4]. In this respect, role assigning and taking in the CC user organization become very important.

The re-identification of the required new tasks, roles and responsibilities in a CC environment is an information technology governance (ITG) exercise, since it involves participative decision-making [60], control, and direction mechanisms [81]. In fact, most popular ITG frameworks, such as control objectives for information and related technologies (COBIT) and information technology infrastructure library (ITIL), advocate for responsibility, accountability, consulted, and informed (RACI) charts for guiding people towards taking on new roles and responsibilities. However, none of them provides guidelines to facilitate this process of self-adaptation for internal as well as for IT controls that have been delegated to the CSP [44].

CC has been examined from various technical and organizational perspectives. For example, Winkler and Brown [84] addressed the assignment of IT decision rights, at the application level, including the governance of applications delivered on premise *versus* those delivered with a software-as-a-service (SaaS) model. However, research focusing on the elements that an organization can leverage on to facilitate role assigning and taking within CC user organizations remains unexplored in academic and non-academic literature [44]. This has created confusion among CC advocates and practitioners, with the result that CC migration projects are fraught with challenges [70] resulting in many reported failed projects [69; 85]. In particular, lack of focus on human aspects [6], lack of talent [55], and lack of skills have been attributed as some antecedents to many failed CC projects [80]. Consequently, the lack of expertise to handle IT controls that have been migrated to the CC,

is now a major challenge [83]. In this regard, there is a trend of identifying, analyzing and suggesting skill requirements for changing IT roles [61]. To address this gap, this contribution plans to identify the elements that would facilitate role taking in a CC context by recognizing the required competencies, tasks and responsibilities. This can eventually set the stage for a participatory or a team decision-making process whereby people can actively contribute towards defining their training and professional development needs as well as taking on responsibility for their career transitions and planning. Eagerness to obtain a clearer picture [66] led us also to determine the ranking of the role assignment and taking elements.

Based on a case study, this research identified the elements associated with the new roles and responsibilities for IT controls in the context of a public CC deployment. These elements are validated using in-depth interviews and then ranked using Delphi technique. Our contributions include:

- Guidelines for contemporary organizations to guide people towards take on roles and responsibilities associated with public CC-based IT controls.
- Guidelines for IT decision makers to help assess their existing workforces' capabilities and making informed decisions on training and professional development needs as well as on acquisition of new resources and capabilities needed for the success of CC projects. In particular, this research advocates the need for organizations to transition from the traditional bureaucratic "command and control" model of role assignment towards a supportive human system model for role taking.
- Guidelines that can be used by ITG authorities as extension to their existing guidelines to organizations on RACI chart assignments to cover CC-based IT controls.
- New insights for researchers on the significant organizational skills for IT controls, when migrating towards a public CC model. These can guide academics to investigate other unexplored research questions such as a (1) comparative studies of this research

topic across different countries and different company sizes, and (2) assessing the risks of inadequate technical skills on CC migration projects.

While this study is important, it is limited to only public deployment model and cannot be generalized to encompass countries of diverse cultures. The remaining of this article is organized as follow: Section 2 examines existing literature to build a set of elements for role assignments, section 3 outlines the research methodology, section 4 discusses the empirical validation and ranking of elements while section 5 concludes the article and provides some directions for future work.

2. Role assigning and taking components

This article reports on authors' experience in defining and ranking the elements that impact the redefinition of roles and responsibilities for the control of CC-based IT resources. Since true technology is a societal human system [28] and since the topic lies in the nexus of knowledge related to humans and technology/machines, we investigated existing theories related to socio-technical systems. The socio-technical theory [7], technology acceptance model (TAM) [13], **human-development resource framework** [54] and the task-technology fit model [30] were examined. It was observed that even though these theories were related to the current topic, they could not be used to model roles and responsibilities. Journal articles related to the theories associated with three IS domains, namely organizational theories, CC and IT governance were chosen for their explicit theoretical relevance to identifying roles and responsibilities in the chosen domain of CC deployment (Table 1).

Organizational design (OD): This domain was chosen because it influences the decision-making process [73] including decisions related to the assignment of people's roles and responsibilities [8]. Autonomy is considered to be one of the logical requirements for ensuring effective organization, especially in a rapidly changing environment [21].

Therefore, in a CC configuration, silos within IT and other autonomous business units needs

to be broken down to ensure cross functionality [25], leading to a participative role-taking decision-making process. OD helps in channeling organizational roles to meet the business strategy. Migration to CC is an organizational strategy [39]. As a result, we considered the strategic alignment model of Henderson and Venkatraman [35]. However, this model was found to focus more on the role of IT in organizational transformation rather than on role taking. Therefore, widely accepted organizational ‘Star model’ [23; 24] used for channeling resources [58], was useful in providing assignment elements for our research too. This model has been used by practitioners for identifying the right people to manage innovation initiatives [14], for shaping **human-development resource** processes [79] and for redesigning activities in organizations [57]. OD was useful in proposing five relevant elements of role assignment and taking namely ‘*strategy*’, ‘*structure*’, ‘*rewards*’, ‘*processes*’, and ‘*people*’ (see Table 1).

Cloud computing: It is a paradigm shift which involves the “outsourcing” of computing resources to remote data centers [15; 52], away from a “hierarchical” mode towards a “market” mode of governance [56]. From technology perspective, our analysis of the academic and practitioner literature on IT outsourcing and public CC resulted in the induction of eleven elements which have an impact on the assignment of people to roles and responsibilities. These eleven elements are: ‘*strategy*’, ‘*vendor evaluation & management*’, ‘*contract management*’, ‘*technical competencies*’, ‘*negotiation skills*’, ‘*performance management*’, ‘*knowledge management*’, ‘*security management*’, ‘*risk management*’, ‘*compliance management*’ and ‘*conflict management*’ (Table 1).

IT governance (ITG): This domain has been explored to identify role elements since the definition of roles and responsibilities of IT controls is an integral component of an ITG decision-making mechanism [60; 74]. ITG is based on three constructs namely structures, processes, and relational mechanisms [32; 33; 65; 82]. Whereas ITG structures and

processes correlate with those of Galbraith's Star model, ITG literature helped in identifying a new element, namely '*relational mechanisms*' (Table 1).

Each of the above theories offers a different lens for understanding how organizations may facilitate role taking in a CC context. However, as shown on Fig. 1, some of the elements derived from these three IS domains overlap with each other. Therefore, these IS domains produced 19 elements, where three of them overlap. Aggregating (with redundancies removed) all the elements resulted in a model (Table 2) with a set of 16 elements for the roles and responsibilities of IT controls in a public CC environment. These are hereinafter referred to as T-version elements.

3. Research methodology

To test our model, we have followed a two-phased approach involving validation through interviews followed by ranking using Delphi technique (Fig. 2). Since research in the domain of CC is still in its early stages [40], exploratory research was deemed appropriate. It builds on secondary research and employs formal approaches through in-depth interviews, focus groups, projective methods, case studies or pilot studies [33]. In this respect, we conducted in-depth interviews of IT decision makers in CC and in the ITG domain in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in order to and rank the T-version elements listed in Table 2. While a case research can be used with any philosophical perspective, we opted for the positivist philosophy as it can explicitly test as well as build theory [16]. In our study, the positivist philosophy is used to get the elements of the model validated and ranked by IT practitioners.

To involve people from various organizational levels, the target focus for validation were IT decision makers working at executive management level. For the ranking of these elements, IT practitioners working at operational level were targeted. Being exploratory research, Delphi technique is found to be suitable for ranking of the elements, as this study

involves a new CC technology trend [1; 59] and Delphi technique provides human judgmental input [86], which is suitable for making joint decisions related to people's roles and responsibilities. Even though two to three rounds is not only the norm [72] but also preferred [67], this study planned to conduct rounds until consensus among participants was achieved.

4. Data collection and analysis

Being theoretical, the T-version elements that emerged through the process of researching the related fields using various sources call for validation via empirical research. The exploratory research leading to a qualitative philosophy directed us towards a two-phased case study approach using in-depth interviews for validation and refinement of elements, and further validation and ranking of elements through a Delphi technique.

4.1. Phase 1: validation of role assigning and taking components:

This phase involves expert interviews in a case study setting to validate the T-version assignment elements. This study interviewed 12 IT decision makers from 11 UAE-based large private and/or government organizations that have adopted public CC (refer to Appendix A for the profile of the respondents and their respective affiliations). The T-version elements were shown to the experts for feedback based on the 'IT control migration' context of the organization that they represent. The interview questionnaire is provided in Appendix B.

Due to the nature of expertise required, respondents at IT decision levels, having related professional certifications and/or have experience on working on CC projects were interviewed. Face-to-face interviews with respondents were conducted over a period of seven months during the year 2015, with each interview lasting an average of 55 minutes. All interviews were audio recorded except for one respondent (R12) who cited organizational confidentiality as a justification for anonymity. For this case, notes were

taken during the interview. For analysis purposes, the audio files were verbatim-transcribed using ‘*O-Transcribe*’ and loaded into the qualitative data analysis software *NVIVO 10*.

4.1.1. Phase 1: analysis

To analyze and interpret the qualitative data, we followed the five-step guideline given by LeCompte [50] namely “tidying up,” “findings items,” “creating stable sets of items,” “creating patterns,” and “assembling structures”. The collected data were subjected to constant comparison analysis [29] to deductively code data into pre-determined (16) themes. The constant comparison analysis feature of NVIVO was used to generate the word count in terms of ‘percentage coverage’ (Table 3) which shows the number of characters as a percentage of the total source. This word count depicts the positive emphasis by respondents [51] to the identified element. Negative values display the disagreement of the respondent on inclusion of a particular element (displayed in terms of percentages, using NVIVO). Since the content of elements overlap with each other, the combined ‘percentage’ of words for the particular theme (shown in the second last column) aggregates to 349.7.5%. This figure has been normalized to 100% and re-calculated to reveal the ‘true percentage’ in the last column aggregating to 100%.

It is evident from Table 3, that ‘*structure*’ and ‘*compliance management*’ received higher (>10%) emphasis while ‘technical competencies’ received the lowest emphasis. Only one respondent cited technical competency as a theme by stating that it is only relevant while the organization is still on the journey of migrating to CC. Apart from validating 16 themes of the T-version elements (Table 2), a new theme ‘*change management*’ also emerged from the interviews, resulting in a total of 17 elements as illustrated in Table 4.

As stated by the interview respondents, the validated elements were overlapping and inclusive. Therefore, to find the relations among these elements, we conducted domain analysis [78] by choosing a domain (element) first and then searched the data using the

semantic relations to find attributes of the domain (or element). Based on the respondents' opinion and domain analysis, we identified the relation between the elements, thereby resulting in the creation of patterns (Fig. 3).

As shown on Fig. 3, relations were identified between '*vendor evaluation & management*' and other elements. Reading through the transcripts in detail revealed that '*performance management*', '*negotiation skills*', '*contract management*', '*knowledge management*', '*conflict management*', '*change management*' and '*technical competencies*' are all linked to '*vendor evaluation & management*', which in turn were defined as people's skills and competencies and therefore were placed under the '*people*' element. Similarly, when the respondents discussed '*risk management*', they considered it to be a component of '*compliance management*'. In the same manner, '*compliance management*' was linked to '*security management*'. Based on their responses, these three elements were aggregated into '*risk, compliance, and security management*'. Further analysis of the transcripts led to their aggregation under '*vendor evaluation & management*'. The respondents associated '*processes*' with domain competencies therefore aggregating it into the '*competencies and skills (people)*' element. The respondents deemed '*structure*', '*strategy*', '*rewards*', and '*relational mechanisms*' exclusive of '*competencies and skills (people)*' as separate elements. Meaningful aggregation of elements under respective themes helped in the assembling of structures into five major-elements.

4.1.2. Phase 1: discussion

Using an influence diagram, Fig. 4 structures the discussion and depicts the results related to the identification of the elements. The major refinement was the aggregation of the seventeen elements into validated and refined (VR-version) five major elements and ten sub-elements. Figure 5 highlights the importance attributed by respondents to each of these elements. As can be seen, people's '*competencies and skills*' has the highest impact. The

highest competency and skill required is being able to manage risks, compliance, and security.

To recapitulate, the exploration of the relevant literature provided an initial list of elements for role taking in the context of a public CC deployment model. In-depth interviews helped in validating as well as in refining the elements. Next, we adopted Delphi technique to further validate and rank these elements.

4.2. Phase 2: ranking of role assigning and taking components

To rank the elements, Delphi technique was used involving forty-four ISACA members as panelists. ISACA is a nonprofit, independent association that advocates for professionals involved in information security, assurance, risk management and governance (<https://www.isaca.org>). The panelists reflected varying profiles (one CIO, ten IT auditors, four IT consultants, twenty-five IT management, and four undeclared) with eleven members working in government and twenty in private UAE organizations (the balance did not declare their organization). The panelists were informed about the purpose of the sessions in advance through the ISACA website and emails. To mitigate the risk of ambiguity in the definition of the elements [12], the definition of each element was provided through the questionnaires and further clarified through the presentations. Two Delphi technique rounds were conducted among the panelists.

4.2.1. Phase 2 analysis: round 1

The focus of the round 1 was to re-validate the elements (VR-version, defined in phase-1). Following other researchers' work [43][17], this Delphi technique research provided pre-existing information (a list of elements (VR version)) to panelists, for re-validation and rankings. These elements were also explained through presentation, followed by the distribution of questionnaire-1 (Appendix C), thereby giving panelists the opportunity to make recommendations to add, change, or delete elements. During the round 1, the panelists

agreed with all the validated and refined elements and considered them to be sufficient. However, six panelists suggested revisiting the title of the sub-element '*change management*'. They also suggested by stating: "*change management is not restricted to vendor management alone... Change management should be at organizational level*". The panelists' suggestions correlated to the response from six interview respondents (R3, R4, R5, R6, R7, R8) who viewed the abilities of people to accept and adapt to the changed work environment as an important organizational element. These comments are also in accordance with Galbraith's [24] views which emphasize the importance of people skills and mind-set to execute the strategic directions of the organization. Therefore, considering the input from the Delphi technique panelists and the interview respondents, we renamed '*change management*' as '*mind-set*' and we moved it out from '*vendor evaluation & management*' to the higher level of main constructs. Subsequently, the '*competencies and skills*' element was renamed to '*competencies, skills and mind-set*'. The collected data were analyzed, elements modified and a new set of questionnaires-2 (Appendix C) was printed for the round 2.

4.2.2. Phase 2 analysis: round 2

The focus of the round 2 was to rank the modified elements, presented to the panelists, thereby enabling them to see the anonymous collected opinion of the group. Questionnaire 2 was distributed among the panelists who were asked to rank the elements in term of importance, using a Likert scale. The panelists were, also, requested to assign weights to each element and sub-element. The purpose of using the Likert scale ranking was to measure the degree of consensus between the panelists and therefore leverage Kendall's coefficient concordance [75]. Data were typed in the pre-prepared excel sheets, analyzed and the new rankings were calculated for each major element and sub-element based on the statistical average of the panelists and the empirical estimates of ratings.

Using the assigned weights and applying statistical aggregation, new ratings and rankings were calculated for each element as shown in Table 5. In the table, column 1 shows the average ranking given to each element by the panelists, and column 2 shows the average percentage weights given by the panelists. Column 3 shows the average weights given by interview respondents, and column 4 shows the average ratings of columns 2 and 3. Consequently, based on column 4 ratings, new ranks were calculated as shown in column 5. As an example, for the '*competencies, skills & mind-sets*' element, the average percentage assigned by the panelists was 48.4%, while the average percentage assigned by the interview respondents was 57%. The average of these two resulted in an overall-average of 52.7%. Based on this result, '*competencies, skills & mind-sets*' retained its first rank (in terms of importance) in the elements (VR-version).

Round 2 results were shared with the panelist through the subsequent presentation and printed forms. This was done to provide panelists with feedback regarding the ranked elements, thereby complying with Goodman's [31] guidelines to keep the panelists informed about the current status of their collective opinion. Using Schmidt's [75] interpretation of Kendall's W coefficient, the level of consensus of 0.79 in the first section and 0.84 in the second section and 0.89 in the third section indicated a strong agreement among the panelists on the element's rankings. According to Bell [5] data are unreliable if the results of questionnaires show varying answers. Kendall's W coefficient results provided a good degree of consensus among panelists, giving confidence in the reliability of the results and providing reason not to go for a third round.

4.2.3. Phase 2: discussion

Kendall's coefficient concordance [75] was used to measure the degree of consensus among the panelists. Satisfyingly, the consensus was achieved within two iterative rounds resulting in the modification and ranking of the elements as shown on Fig. 6.

A significant finding in this phase of the empirical study is the higher emphasis on the ‘*technical competency*’ requirements which differed from that of the interview respondents. This finding was also reflected in comments of the panelists, as one of them stated that “*reasonable in-house technical knowledge is a must*” and another one believes that “*people’s competencies and skills have more impact (on roles and responsibilities assignment)*”. Another panelist commented that the degree of reliance on technical competencies depends on the size of the organization. According to him, as smaller organizations tend to have less technical skills, they rely heavily on CC vendors’ advice. This aspect was re-iterated by another panelist who stated that “*technical skills being inadequate with small companies, therefore too much reliance is placed by them on vendors. ...whereas in large organizations in house technical skills are strong and mature*”. Therefore, in a CC environment, where IT controls are migrated and managed by the CC provider, technical competencies are still required. However, this requirement seems to be less important for smaller organizations which mostly rely on the CSP expertise. Ergo, the final validated, refined and ranked elements termed as elements (VRR-version) are recompiled as shown in Table 6.

The resulting validated elements will aid in managerial decisions to identify the required skills and competencies for IT controls in a CC environment. While the researchers have described people’s ‘competencies, skills & mind-set’ as critical for achieving the strategic direction of an organization [24], the empirical study re-established them as the decisive elements in role taking, with the maximum coverage (52.7%). Interpretation of the interview respondent’s statements revealed that the highest (71.9%) desired competency and skills for IT controls are the ability to evaluate and manage CC vendors, particularly in terms of risk, compliance, and security. Contrary to the literature, which states that people need profound ‘technical competencies’ for integrating CC resources with internal systems [49], this study indicated that CC vendors take control of the technical part of the CC,

replacing people's technical competency requirements with business skill requirements. Those who supported the inclusion of technical competencies attributed a much-diminished weight (7%) for this element, stating that technical competencies are needed while the organization is still in the process of migrating towards a CC deployment model.

The structures (18%) within an organization determine the location and distribution of power [24; 65], the type and the number of job specialties used in performing the work. Researchers [24] as well as interview respondents correlated the task assignment to the number of people in the department at each level of the structure. According to five respondents, CC will not only reduce the necessary number of IT professionals in the organization, but also acts as a catalyst to facilitate the relocation of people to different departments or to expose them to new career paths.

The strategy of an organization (14.7%) impacts role taking by redefining the new organizational needs in terms of new CC-driven resources and capabilities in alignment with the business strategy. Rewards have 8.7% impact on role taking as people are rewarded by being trained, and by taking on new and challenging CC related roles, thereby giving them recognition, motivation and growth opportunity.

Networks can be either bureaucratically hierarchized or ecologically self-organized and self-governed. Networks are much in vogue these days, yet not all networks entail the humane flows of collegial control and responsibility. Relational mechanisms (with an emphasis of 6%) are used to build interpersonal relations through collaboration, job rotation, and team decision-making thereby facilitating the humane flows of collegial control and responsibility.

Based on the identification and ranking of the aforementioned competencies and responsibilities required for the successful adoption or migration towards a public cloud environment, our research suggests that CC entails a paradigm shift where organizations

become catalysts of change whose role is to facilitate the transition towards a high technology of open market self-governance based on the dispersed hierarchy. Under this model, organizations play the role of a supportive and a developer of its human assets, while people can engage in participative or collegial team decision-making to find the best match between the new skill sets and associated roles required by CC and their individual self-fulfillment needs and career path aspirations. In fact, CC is introducing new skill and competency requirements, new career paths and new roles and responsibilities that people should have a say on as opposed to letting the organization decide for them. In this regards, Hall and Mirvis [34] described the Protean career as a new career model whereby the person, not the organization, takes on the responsibility for one's own career path. The term Protean is taken from the Greek sea-god *Proteus* (Πρωτεύς) who is capable of changing his shape at will.

5. Conclusion and suggestions for future research

Organizations are pursuing technological scalability by embarking ICT, such as CC. One critical pre-requisite for a plan of technological scalability is the emergence of new governance models [76]. While numerous ITG frameworks, standards, and best practices exist, to date ITG authorities have not come up with guidelines for identifying roles and responsibilities in a CC environment. Theoretical and empirical studies revealed that people's assignment to IT controls in a CC environment (as well as in a non-CC environment) is being done on a subjective and ad-hoc basis with little consistency across sectors, regions, or organizational sizes. Therefore, motivated by the lack of organizational guidance, this research identifies the elements that impact role taking for the control of IT resources within public CC user organizations. We have empirically validated these elements by interviewing IT decision makers and, then, ranked these elements with the assistance of IT practitioners, using Delphi technique.

This research has highlighted *‘people’s competencies, skills and mind-set’* at evaluating and managing CC vendors as the dominant element. The ability to *‘evaluate and manage CC vendors’*, particularly in terms of *‘risk, compliance and security management’* emerged as the highest desired competency. In addition, this study revealed that smaller organizations do not depend much on their internal technical competencies as they have tendency to tap into the CSP expertise. Another significant finding is that staff in the CC user organizations needs to possess significant business competencies to manage CC-based IT controls.

This set of ranked elements is an innovative initiative that can be applied to ITG frameworks while ensuring consistency, uniform control, and compliance. Our empirical study contributes to both ITG research and practice by reducing the gap between these two fields in order to guide managerial actions towards establishing IT-centric governance arrangements to match the CC-based enterprise architecture. The findings contribute to the practice of managing IT controls in public CC by providing guidelines to empower IT decision makers and employees to make informed decisions about training and professional development needs and role taking. It also provides guidelines to ITG authorities and policymakers to comprehend good practices related to people’s skills and competencies in the context of a CC deployment model.

This research suggests that, in the context of a new organizational paradigm, our empirical findings can assist organizations to share the identified skills and competencies among its workforce. This can potentially create a participative approach among employees for the purpose of identifying training, personal and professional development needs, as well as for making better informed decisions about role taking, career transitions and career path planning. Hence an esoteric implication of this contribution is in the fact that CC entails a “paradigm shift” from the traditional role assigning model (based on

bureaucratically-hierarchized IT hetero-governance) towards a role-taking model (based on a supportive societal human system of open market IT self-governance).

Based on a case study in the UAE, our approach lacks some generalization and therefore some caution is required in interpreting the results. For instance, because national culture has been found to have a substantial effect in IS studies [53], generalizing these results to other cultures is encouraged. This study therefore advances academic research in the area of ITG by paving way for further qualitative and quantitative research to conduct a global study, including hybrid CC deployment models and encompassing several countries.

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Tables

Table 1. Theoretical background for role assignment and taking

Theoretical perspective	Implications for role and responsibility assignment	Elements	Sources
Organizational theory	<p>This model emphasizes that people’s roles within an organization depend upon the strategy adopted by the organization (whether to build internal capabilities or to exploit external capabilities);</p> <p>Roles and responsibilities also depend on structures that determine type and numbers of job specialties used in performing the work; the number of people constituting the departments at each level of the structure; distribution of power; and basis for forming departments at each level of the structure;</p> <p>It emphasizes the role of processes, which are defined as connected set of activities that show the movement of information;</p> <p>This model emphasizes the importance of people’s competencies, skills and mind-set required to execute the strategic directions of the organization;</p> <p>According to this model, people are rewarded when they take over motivating tasks.</p>	Strategy, structures, processes, people, rewards	[24]
Cloud computing theories	Outsourcing literature emphasizes on people’s capabilities and skills to build successful outsourcing relations and to capitalize on the external market’s ability to deliver effective IT services. Additionally, the CC literature encourages skills and capabilities to address the ever-increasing security, risk and compliance management concerns, related to the technology.	Strategy, vendor evaluation and mgmt., contract mgmt., technical competencies, negotiation skills, performance mgmt., knowledge mgmt., security mgmt., risk mgmt., compliance mgmt. and conflict mgmt.	[2; 3; 9; 18; 20; 22; 36; 38; 45; 46; 48; 62; 64; 90]
ITG theory	ITG uses structures for distributing IT-related decision-making rights and for distributing responsibilities of IT staff. ITG defines processes as strategic IT decision making or IT monitoring procedures; to allocate IT resources that help in managing external partners and to control IT resource planning. ITG follows relational mechanisms to allocate roles and responsibilities in a way that helps in forming a link between business and IT.	Structures, processes, relational mechanisms	[33; 42; 65; 77]

Table 2. Elements: T-version.

Elements	Definition	Sources
1. Strategy	– Defines whether to build capabilities (like skills, processes, technologies, human abilities) internally or exploit external capabilities available in the form of cloud services. Strategy of an organization leads to the tasks to be performed.	[2; 3; 24; 48]
2. Structure	– Outlines the specialization which determines the type and numbers of job specialties used in performing the work. – Defines the shape that refers to the number of people constituting the departments at each level of the structure (size). – Determines the distribution of power either to the department dealing directly with issues critical to its mission, or centralization or decentralization of this authority	[2; 24; 77].
3. Processes	– Connected set of activities that show the movement of information. When these processes cross the organizational boundaries in a cloud environment, clear articulation of roles and responsibilities at the boundary interfaces is required.	[2; 24; 77].
4. People	– Fundamental set of competencies, skills and mind-sets required from employees at all levels.	[24]
5. Relational mechanisms	– Collaboration, relationship, teams, networks, integrative roles and matrix connections building attributes to build interpersonal and collaborative relations among units and organizations.	[24; 33; 65]
6. Risk management	– Competencies to identify all potential risk that may be associated with critical assets like intellectual property, personally identifiable information etc. that will be stored with the cloud service provide (CSP).	[19; 45; 64]
7. Compliance management	– Knowledge of internal and external organizational policies and ensuring the maintenance of same compliance, even when operating in cloud. – Knowledge of national and international regulations that constrain the flow of information and mandate the vulnerability assessment of data in the public cloud. – Competency to assist holding cloud (and other) service providers accountable for how they manage personal, sensitive and confidential information in the public cloud.	[19; 38; 45; 64]
8. Security management	– Competencies to handle security concerns in public cloud where services can be used by competing clients and where the number of cloud users is much higher. – Competencies to handle cloud security concerns like information assurance, data privacy, and ownership issues arising in public clouds due to the risk of an unauthorized data disclosure and lack of user control on client data. – Competencies to ensure the deployment of data privacy mechanisms by CSPs that are compliant with the regional legal regulations.	[19; 45; 64]
9. Vendor evaluation & management	– Skills are required for handling activities to evaluate and select vendors.	[2; 9]
10. Contract management	– Skills to structure contracts for effective pricing, access rights, data ownership, risk management and for ensuring the availability of data and reports. Specific SLA can be added to the contract.	[2; 36; 62; 71]
11. Technical competencies	– Competencies to evaluate the on-demand, self-service cloud based solutions, coordinate and integrate the cloud services with the legacy systems to create new opportunities and to reduce cost.	[20; 45]
12. Negotiation skills	– Skills to negotiate the contact terms to ensure the firm's rights and obligations for both parties.	[46; 90]
13. Performance management	– Competencies required for setting quality levels, monitoring the CSP against the SLAs and rating the CSP performance	[2; 62] [22]
14. Conflict management	– Skills to assess and avoid negative impact of establishing new business ties or terminating the existing business with a CSP.	[46; 90]
15. Knowledge management	– Attributes required for sharing or transferring knowledge with the CSP, to build trust which will result in supplier improved commitment and thus better results.	[19; 45; 64]
16. Rewards	– To motivate people to perform and address organizational goals.	[23]

Table 3. Elements (T-version) validation- percentage coverage

Elements	Percentage emphasis by interview respondents												Percentage coverage	
	R1	R4	R3	R2	R8	R5	R10	R12	R11	R6	R7	R9	349.7%	100%
Structure	7.10	8.02	8.41	8.90	5.82	13.39	2.17	4.63	0.97	0.48	0.41	3.88	64.18	<i>18.4</i>
Compliance management	1.61	15.71	1.65	6.13	4.82	3.95	1.32	0.34	0.37	2.07	0.41	0.50	38.88	<i>11.1</i>
Security management	0.79	0.71	0.39	2.15	5.96	4.52	5.07	2.59	0.25	3.07	0.41	4.20	30.11	<i>8.6</i>
Strategy	2.01	2.68	0.37	0.42	1.36	0.35	1.96	4.51	0.30	6.66	0.41	5.56	26.59	<i>7.6</i>
Vendor evaluation & management	ND	3.23	1.63	2.31	2.91	2.76	1.52	1.55	0.07	3.49	0.41	5.24	25.11	<i>7.2</i>
Processes	0.74	0.94	6.38	2.67	2.74	3.62	1.17	1.91	0.10	0.22	4.52	(2.05)	22.97	<i>6.6</i>
People	ND	1.49	8.58	2.87	4.03	1.22	1.23	0.07	0.33	1.18	0.41	ND	21.42	<i>6.2</i>
Relational mechanisms	3.35	1.64	2.93	3.82	4.42	1.34	0.49	0.35	0.08	1.45	0.41	0.59	20.87	<i>6.0</i>
Rewards	ND	1.60	0.37	3.28	4.08	2.15	0.34	2.38	0.26	2.96	0.41	2.39	20.22	<i>5.8</i>
Performance management	8.52	2.11	0.07	4.53	0.10	0.42	0.09	0.26	0.90	0.13	2.80	ND	19.93	<i>5.7</i>
Risk management	0.79	4.80	0.37	0.12	6.99	0.37	0.08	3.36	0.22	1.57	0.41	ND	19.09	<i>5.5</i>
Negotiation skills	ND	10.66	0.83	0.10	0.41	1.25	0.61	0.80	0.14	0.12	0.32	0.10	15.34	<i>4.4</i>
Contract management	0.67	1.58	0.43	1.48	0.18	0.13	1.26	0.57	0.32	1.92	0.41	ND	8.96	<i>2.6</i>
Knowledge management	1.89	0.43	0.53	0.23	1.33	0.29	0.73	0.87	0.02	1.44	0.41	ND	8.17	<i>2.3</i>
Conflict management	1.82	0.41	0.95	0.33	ND	0.20	0.75	0.75	0.15	0.1	0.1	ND	5.55	<i>1.6</i>
Technical competencies	(1.13)	(1.32)	5.04	(1.08)	(1.12)	(1.92)	1.0	0.6	0.18	0.82	1.98	(0.81)	2.31	<i>0.7</i>

()	Negative emphasis	ND	Not Discussed	Bold numbers	Total percentage coverage	Bold and italics numbers	Coverage scaled to 100%
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Table 4. Validation of elements (T-version)

#	Elements	Phase-1
1	Strategy	✓
2	Structure	✓
3	Processes	✓
4	People	✓
5	Relational mechanisms	✓
6	Risk management	✓
7	Compliance management	✓
8	Security management	✓
9	Vendor evaluation & management	✓
10	Contract management	✓
11	Technical competencies	✓
12	Negotiation skills	✓
13	Performance management	✓
14	Conflict management	✓
15	Knowledge management	✓
16	Rewards	✓
17	X	Change management

Table 5. Delphi technique ratings and rankings

Sections	Elements	Col. 1 Delphi average ranking	Col. 2 Delphi average weightage (%)	Col. 3 Research weightage (%)	Col. 4 New rating (%)	Col. 5 New rank
SECTION 1- Five main elements	1 Competencies, skills & mind-set (People)	1	48.4	57	52.7	1
	2 Structure	2.8	17.9	18	17.95	2
	3 Strategy	2.5	18.4	11	14.7	3
	4 Rewards	4	8.4	9	8.7	4
	5 Relational Mechanisms	4.7	6.9	5	5.95	5
SECTION 2 - Three sub-elements of the ' <i>Competencies, skills and mind-set (People)'</i> factor	1.1 Vendor evaluation & management	1	53.8	90	71.9	1
	1.2 Processes	2.2	37.5	10	23.75	2
	1.3 Mind-set	2.8	8.6	2	5.30	3
SECTION 3 - Seven sub- elements of the ' <i>Vendor evaluation & management</i> '	1.1.1 Risks, compliance & security	1.1	48	59	53.5	1
	1.1.2 Contract management	2.8	12	11	11.5	2
	1.1.3 Performance management	4.2	9	9	9	3
	1.1.4 Knowledge management	5.5	7	9	8	4
	1.1.5 Negotiation skills	6.3	6	7	6.5	6
	1.1.6 Conflict management	7	5	2	3.5	7
	1.1.7 Technical competencies	3.7	13	1	7	5

Table 6. Validated, refined and ranked elements (VRR-version)

Elements		Definitions
1. Competencies, skills & mind-set (People) (52.7%)	1.1. Vendor evaluation and Mgmt. (71.9%)*	1.1.1 Risks, compliance, and security management (53.7%)** Competencies to identify and manage all potential critical, legal, and compliance-related risks associated with the cloud. Competencies to ensure compliance with internal as well as external policies, regulations, and accountability mechanisms when operating in the cloud. Competencies to evaluate cloud vendors to ensure deployment of security mechanisms related to information assurance, data privacy, data confidentiality, ownership, and technology-related issues.
		1.1.2 Contract management (12%)** Skills to develop and manage contracts for effective SLAs, pricing, access rights, data ownership, risk management, and to ensure the availability of data and reports.
		1.1.3 Performance management (9.5%)** Competencies required for setting quality levels, monitoring the vendor against the SLAs, and rating their performance.
		1.1.4 Knowledge management (7.8%)** Skills to share knowledge between cloud users and vendors in both directions, building trust that will result in improved commitment and better overall results.
		1.1.5 Technical competencies (7%)** Competencies to coordinate with the cloud vendor to implement/integrate the cloud services with the existing systems.
		1.1.6 Negotiation skills (6.5%)** Skills to negotiate the contract terms to ensure the rights and obligations for both parties.
		1.1.7 Conflict management (3.5%)** Skills to assess and avoid any negative impact from establishing new business ties or terminating existing business with a cloud provider.
	1.2. Processes (23.8%)* Competencies to handle different sets of processes that cross departmental and organizational boundaries.	
	1.3. Mind-set (4.3%)* Ability to handle challenges, and readiness to adopt the new technology.	
	2. Structures (18%) Roles and responsibilities assignment is based on the location of decision-making power and authority that establishes the reporting relations, power distribution, and communication channels.	
3. Strategy (14.7%) IT strategy which is in alignment with business objectives will define whether to build capabilities (like skills, processes, technologies, people abilities) internally or to exploit external capabilities. It defines the tasks to be performed.		
4. Rewards (8.7%) People are rewarded by being allocated to cloud-related tasks, so as to give them opportunity for growth, motivation, recognition, and the challenge of learning new technologies.		
5. Relational mechanisms (6%) Roles and responsibilities assignment depends on building interpersonal and collaborative relations among units and organizations.		

* Weights relative to 'competencies, skills & mind-set' ** Weights relative to 'vendor evaluation and mgmt.'

Figure Captions

Figure 1. Overlapped elements

Figure 2. Two phased empirical research

Figure 3. Creating patterns of elements.

Figure 4. Discussion and results related to validated and refined elements
(VR-version)

Figure 5. Coverage of the validated and refined elements (VR-version).

Figure 6. The Delphi technique rounds and resulting changes

Figures

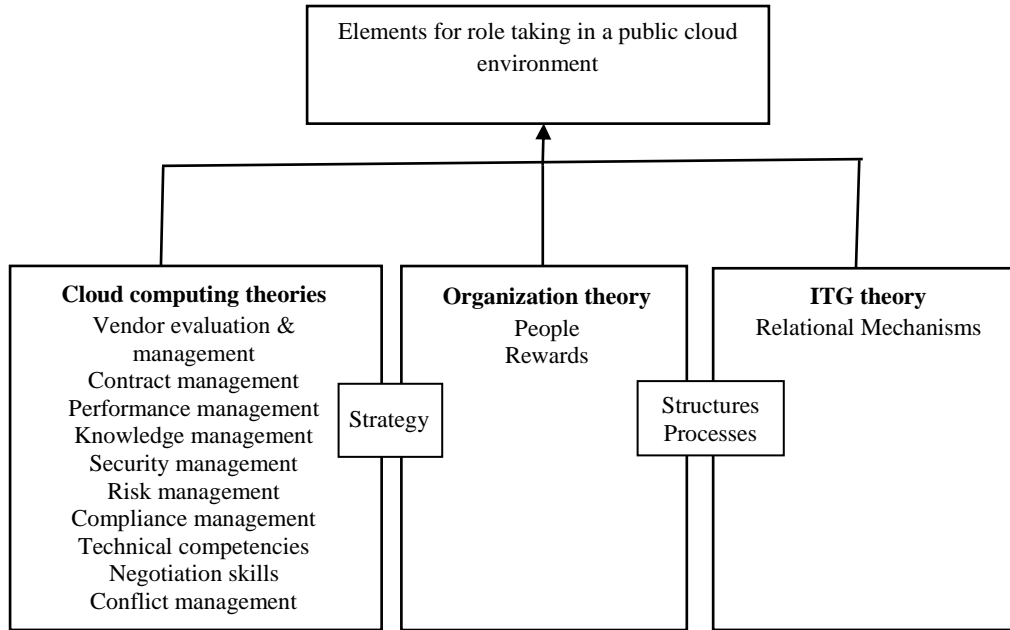


Figure 1. Overlapped elements

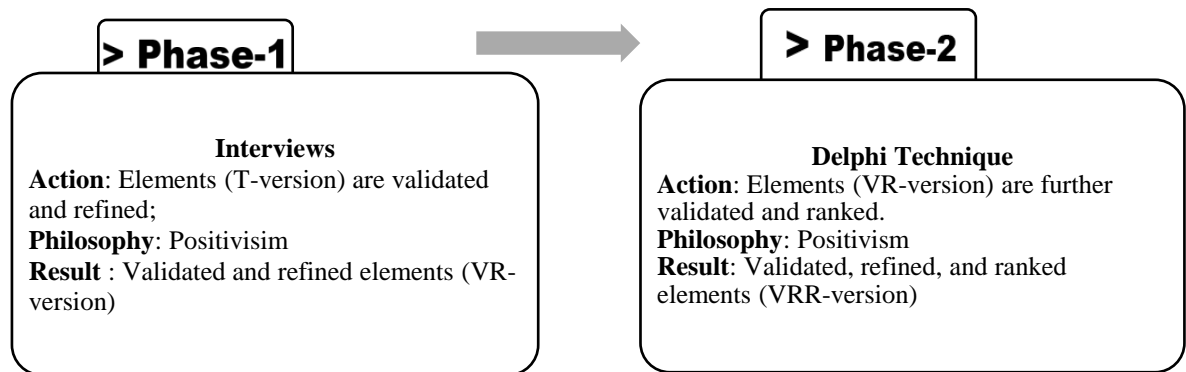


Figure 2. Two phased empirical research

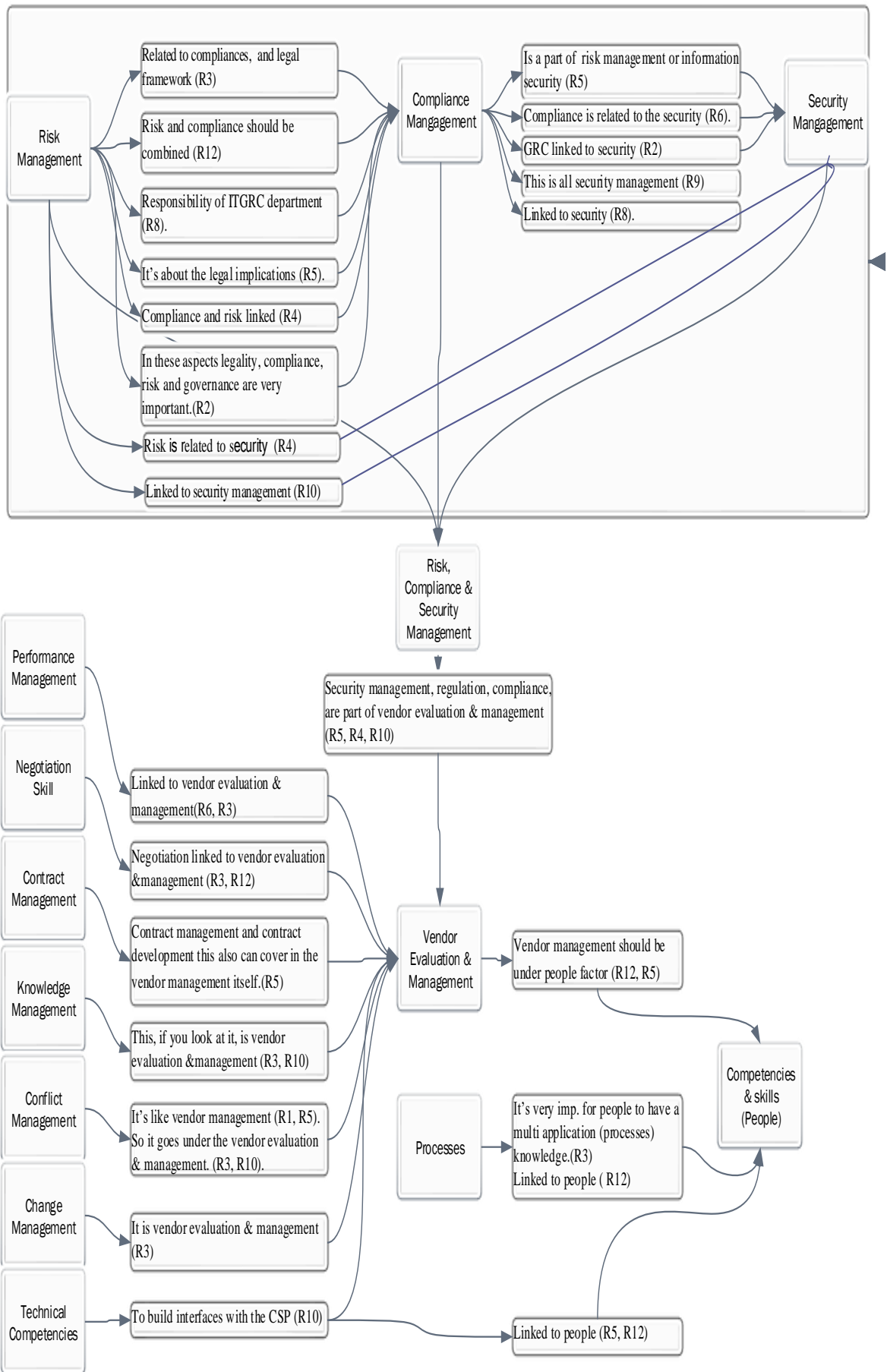


Figure 3. Creating patterns of elements.

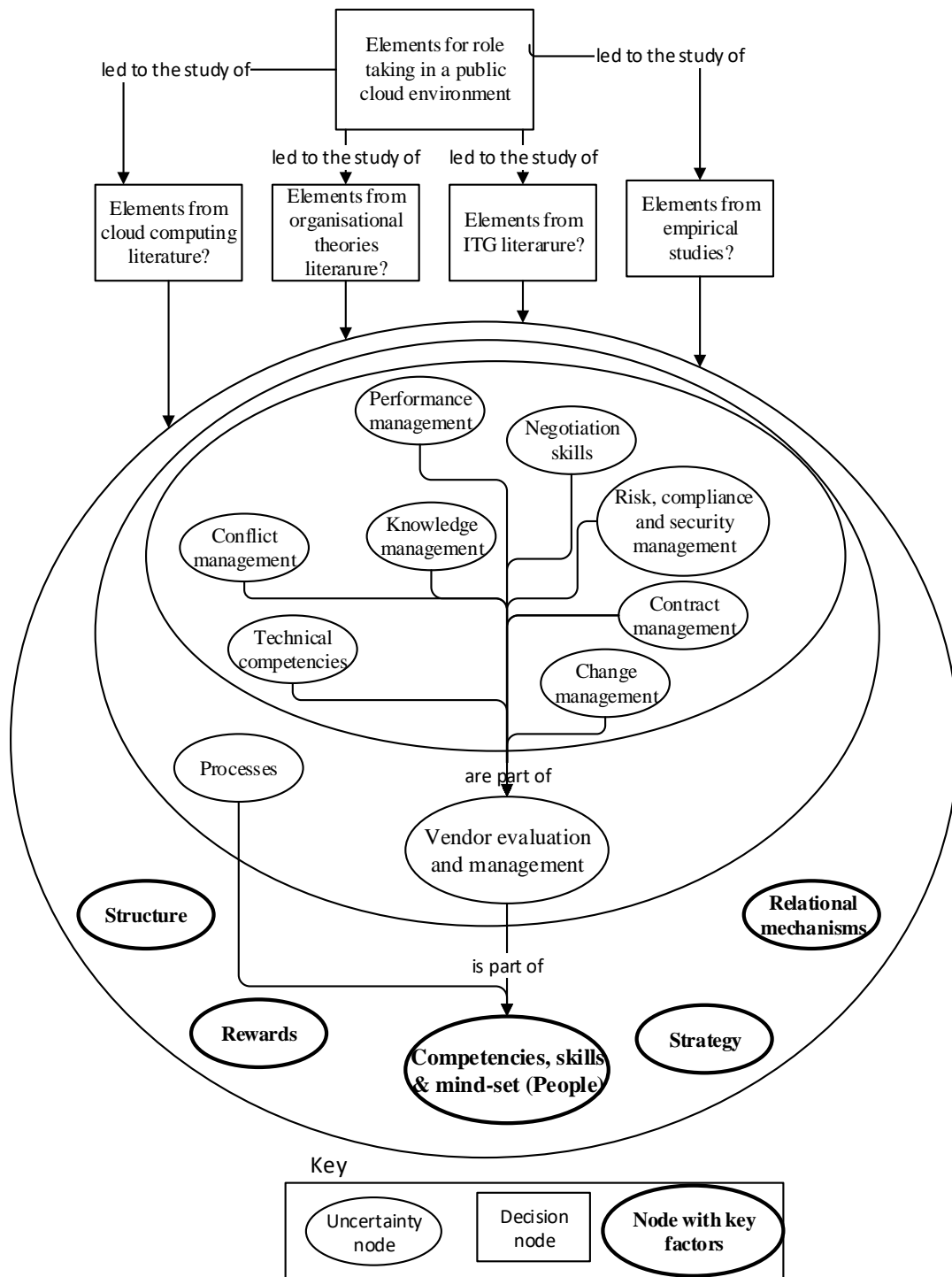


Figure 4. Discussion and results related to validated and refined elements (VR-version)

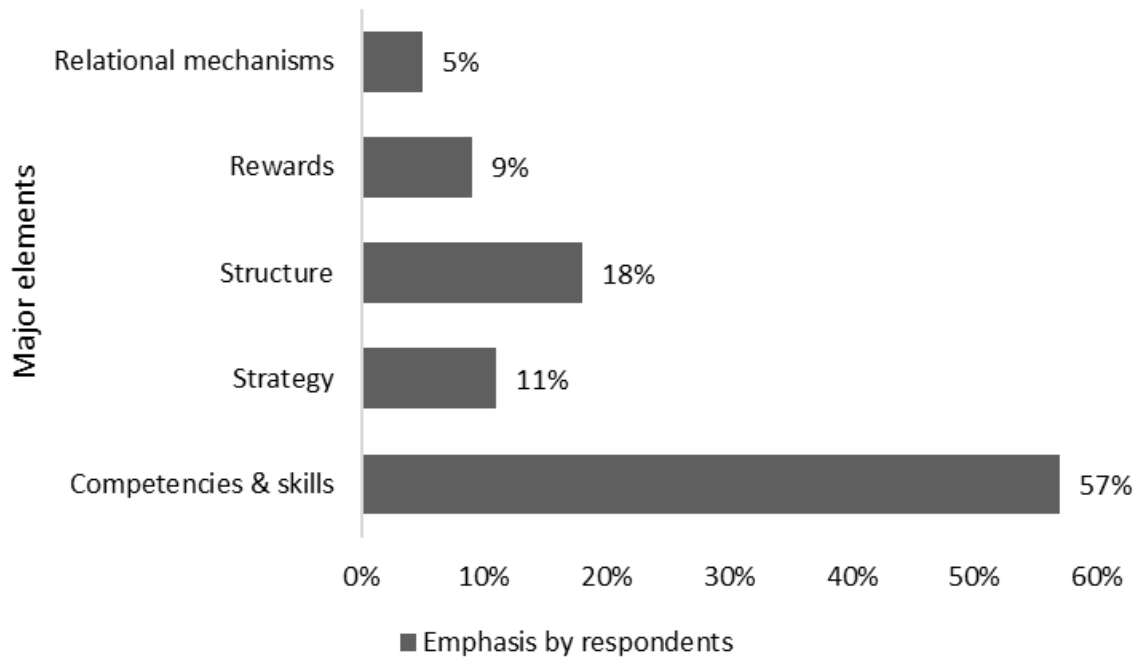


Figure 5. Coverage of the validated and refined elements (VR-version).

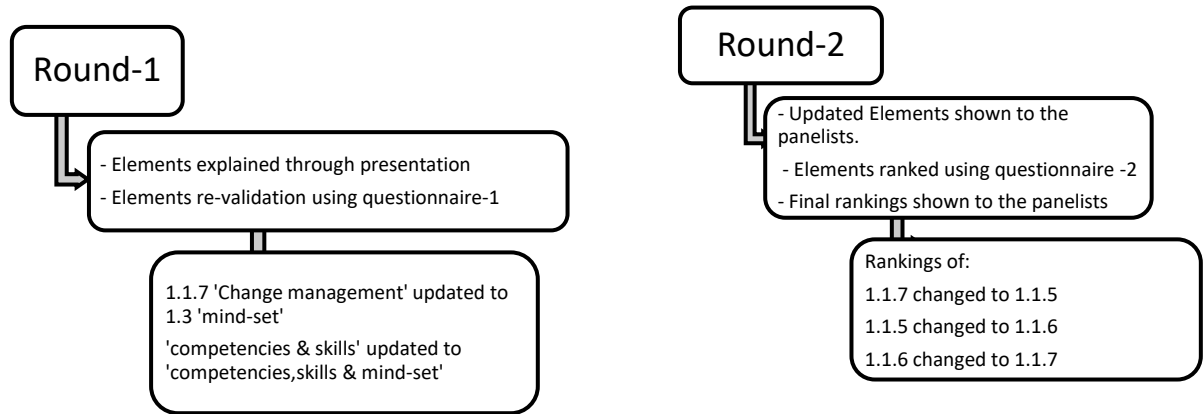


Figure 6. The Delphi technique rounds and resulting changes

Appendix A - Respondents and organizational profiles

Respondent profile			Organizational profile		
#	Position	Knowledge of ITG	Industry	Sector	Organization details
R1	Senior infrastructure manager	More than 13 years' experience in various IT management positions.	Utility services	Govt.	It is a leading public service infrastructure organization in the UAE with almost 10,000 staff overall and over 3000 in the IT department. Initiated deployment of IaaS cloud model.
R2	Chief IT restructuring officer	In a very senior IT management position. More than 30 years' IT management experience in IT industries. MBA with certification in CGEIT.	Technology	Govt.	It is a leading Dubai based ICT service provider in the UAE. It is a subsidiary of an organization with more than 50,000 employees. There are more than 90 people working in the ICT provider branch.
R3	Head of IT	More than 20 years' IT management experience in IT industries. An engineer with certification in CISSP and PMP.	Investment	Private	Total number of employees exceeds 700. Currently 26 employees in the IT department and has a target of 65 by the end of the year. Hybrid cloud model adopted.
R4	Vice president IT	More than 16 years' experience in the IT industry. Chartered accountant and global CIO.	Real estate	Private	Company with a centralized IT department for all of its subsidiaries. Number of employees exceeds 400 with 10 (plus outsourced staff) in the IT department. Public cloud model adopted.
R5	Chief information security officer	More than 15 years' experience in the IT industry. Holds 39 qualifications, including CGEIT, CISSP and CFE.	Banking	Private	Bank with nearly 800 employees, including 60 in the IT department. Public cloud model adopted.
R6	Consulting engineer	More than 18 years' experience in the IT industry. Master's degree in engineering. Holds qualifications including CCIE, CISSP and VCP.	Technology	Private	Global leader in IT with revenue of US\$ 47.1142 billion and an office in UAE. Number of employee's exceeding 70,000 with over 200 in the UAE office. This organization is a cloud enabler with its own cloud.
R7	Group CIO	More than 11 years' experience in senior IT management. Holds an honorary doctorate and two master's degrees.	Retail	Private	Number of employees close to 10,000 and the organization has adopted the public cloud.
R8	Head systems and storage	More than 15 years' experience in IT management. Holds a BE and MBA (IT) and has qualifications in ITIL, MCP, CCNA, CAN, VCP, and PMP.	Banking	Private	Number of employees equals 2500 with 90 in the IT department. Cloud models adopted are private, public and hybrid
R9	Head of IT	More than 17 years' experience in IT management. Holds an MBA (finance) and has qualifications in PMP, CISA, and CGEIT.	Real estate	Private	One of the largest real estate developers in UAE, operating internationally, having a revenue of more than \$3 billion. Numbers of employees exceed 10,000 with over 200 in the IT department. Cloud models adopted include private, public and hybrid.
R10	Senior manager (Information security and IT)	More than 30 years' experience in IT management. Holds an M.Tech and has qualifications in Oracle DBA (7, 8, 9i, 10i), IBM AIX Administrator (4.x), HP-UX Administrator (7,8), CISSP, PMP, ABCP, CISM, CGEIT and CRISC.	Manufacturing	Govt.	It is a leading global producer with number of employees exceeding 7,000 having over 160 in the IT department. Their cloud adoption is at a very early stage.
R11	Manager information security and risk	More than 11 years' experience in IT management. An engineer with qualifications in ISO 27001 implementer, ISO 27001 auditor, and ISO 27000 auditor.	Technology	Govt.	It is a leading Dubai based ICT service provider in UAE. It is the subsidiary of an organization with more than 50,000 employees. There are more than 90 people working in the ICT provider branch.
R12	VP information technology and services	More than 22 years' experience in IT management. Holds an MSc and MBA and has qualifications in ITIL, CISCO, PMP, and CCSIP.	Banking	Private	One of the largest bank in UAE by assets. Number of employees in the IT department exceeds 200. Cloud model adopted is confidential.

Appendix B – interview questionnaire

An Integrated Model for Role Assignment & Taking in a Cloud Environment

Interview # X

Questions on the Organization and the Interviewee

Organization

Name:

Industry:

Size. of organization (number of employees):

Size. of IT dept.:

Cloud models adopted:

Section 1: Questions about the nature of people’s role & responsibilities allocation in the organization.

1. Which ITG framework or standard are you using in your organization?
2. What percentage of your IS has moved to the public cloud?
3. Which IT resources (processes/assets) have been migrated to the public cloud?
4. Are you facing any challenges in cloud adoption in terms of people’s roles and responsibilities?
5. How do you allocate people to IT controls in a public cloud? Is your assignment based on any criteria?
6. If you are provided with a set of elements for assigning roles and responsibilities of IT controls that are in public cloud, would you find that useful?

Instructions: Elements will be shown to the interviewee and rest of the questions will be pertaining to the elements that can be used to allocate roles and responsibilities of IT controls that have been moved to the public cloud.

Section 2: Questions related to the validation of the elements

- Review the list for completeness. You can suggest to modify, or delete the factor. If you feel that the element or its definition is needed, then please rank it too.

Elements	Response for element Yes/No Rationale	Taken your personal experience into account, rate the importance of each element for allocating people to IT controls which are in public cloud, for any generic organization. Use a score between 0 (not important) and 5 (very important).	Definitions	Response for elements Yes/No Rationale	Taken your personal experience into account, rate the importance of each element for allocating people to IT controls which are in public cloud, for any generic organization. Use a score between 0 (not important) and 5 (very important).
1. Strategy			Defines whether to build capabilities (like skills, processes, technologies, human abilities) internally or exploit external capabilities. Strategy of an organization leads to the tasks to be performed.		
2. Structure			Type and numbers of job specialties used in performing the work (Specialization). Number of people constituting the departments at each level of the structure (Shape). Distribution of power - either to the department dealing directly with issues critical to its mission, or centralization or decentralization of this authority.		
3. Processes			Type of Information and decision processes (vertical or horizontal) that may cut across the organization's structure.		
4. People			Fundamental set of competencies, skills and mind-sets required from employees at all levels.		
5. Rewards			Motivating people to perform and address organizational goals. Offering nonmonetary rewards such as recognition or challenging assignments.		
6. Relational mechanisms			Collaboration, relations, teams, networks, integrative roles and matrix connections building attributes to build interpersonal and collaborative relations among units and organizations.		
7. Risk management			Competencies to identify all potential risk that may be associated with critical assets like intellectual property, personally identifiable information etc. that will be stored with the CSP.		
8. Compliance management			Knowledge of internal and external organizational policies and ensuring the maintenance of same compliance, even when operating in Cloud. Knowledge of national and international regulations that constrain the flow of information and mandate the vulnerability assessment of data in the public/hybrid Cloud. Competency to assist holding cloud (and other) service providers accountable for how they manage personal, sensitive and confidential information in the public/hybrid cloud.		

9. Security management	<p>Competencies to handle security concerns in public/hybrid cloud where services can be used by competing clients and where the number of Cloud users is much higher.</p> <p>Competencies to handle Cloud security concerns like information assurance, data privacy, and ownership issues arising in public/hybrid Clouds due to the risk of an unauthorized data disclosure and lack of user control on client data.</p> <p>Competencies to ensure the deployment of data privacy mechanisms by CSPs that are compliant with the regional legal regulations.</p>
10. Vendor Evaluation & management	Skills required for handling activities to evaluate and select vendors.
11. Contract Development	Skills to structure contracts for effective pricing, access rights, data ownership, risk management and for ensuring the availability of data and reports. Specific service level agreements (SLA) can be added to the contract.
12. Technical competencies	Competencies to evaluate the on-demand, self-service cloud based solutions, coordinate, implement and integrate the cloud services with the existing systems to create new opportunities and to reduce cost.
13. Negotiation skills	Skills to negotiate the contract terms to ensure the firm's rights and obligations for both parties.
14. Performance management	Competencies required for setting quality levels, monitoring the CSP against the SLAs and rating the CSP performance
15. Conflict management	Skills to assess and avoid negative impact of establishing new business ties or terminating the existing business with a CSP.
16. Knowledge management	Attributes required for sharing or transferring knowledge with the CSP, to build trust which will result in supplier improved commitment and thus better results.

8. Do you want to add any element?

9. Do you want to delete any element?

Questions regarding suggestions for the improvement of the elements

10. What are your views regarding the use of these elements for the assignment of people's roles and responsibilities of IT controls in a public cloud?
11. What are the weaknesses of this list?
12. Do you think an organization would benefit from these elements?
13. How can we improve them?
14. Any other feedback/comments on the elements and their definitions?

Adding the Contextual Data

Case Interview # X (CI-X)

Date:

Time Started:

Time finished:

Location:

Setting (Noisy/Quiet):

Impression of how well the interview went:

Appendix C - Delphi technique related forms

Delphi Round 1 Questionnaire (Validating Elements)

Instructions:

Please do provide some personal data about your function and the company you work for. It is not mandatory to enter any of the personal or organizational information. This information will be used only to better understand and interpret the results

Designation

Profile (business, IT, consultant, audit)

Company

Employees in UAE

Please tick one option:

< 50 < 250 > 250

Email ID

Instruction:

The list below provides the elements that an organization can use to implement the IT governance activity of allocating roles and responsibilities of IT controls, that have been, or are planned to be migrated to the public cloud.

Notes:

1. The list is based on literature and empirical research.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Please complete the survey for an organization in UAE, that has moved or is planning to migrate its IT controls to the public cloud.

Elements	Definition	Your Comments/feedback
1. Competencies and skills (People)	People with right competencies, skills and mindsets will impact their allocation to controls on the cloud	
2. Structure	Roles and responsibilities allocation is based on the location of decision-making power and authority that establishes the reporting relationships, power distribution, and communication channels.	
3. Strategy	IT strategy which is in alignment with business objectives will define whether to build capabilities (like skills, processes, technologies, human abilities) internally or to exploit external capabilities available in the form of cloud services. It defines the tasks to be performed.	
4. Rewards	People are rewarded by being allocated to cloud-related tasks so as to give them the opportunity for growth, motivation, recognition, and the challenge of learning new technologies. Roles and responsibilities allocation depends on building interpersonal and collaborative relationships among units and organisations.	
5. Relational Mechanisms <Add elements if required	<Add definitions if required>	

Instruction:

Provide valuable feedback/comment/suggestions

SURVEY:

Input on roles and responsibilities allocation elements in a public cloud environment.

SECTION 2 -

Two sub-elements of the 'Competencies and skills (People)' factor

INSTRUCTION

Review the list of proposed elements for completeness. Add, delete or modify, if needed. Review the definitions if possible.

elements	Definition	Your Comments/feedback
1.1 Vendor evaluation & management	People must have competencies and skills to evaluate and manage cloud vendors	
1.2 Processes	Competencies to handle different sets of processes that cross departmental and organizational boundaries.	
<Add elements if required	<Add definitions if required>	

Feedback

Instruction:

Provide valuable feedback/comment/suggestions

SURVEY:

Input on roles and responsibilities allocation elements in a public cloud environemnt.

SECTION 3 -

Eight sub-elements of the 'Vendor evaluation & management' sub- factor

INSTRUCTION

Review the list of proposed elements for completeness. Add, delete or modify, if needed. Review the definitions if possible.

Sub-elements	Definition	Your Comments/feedback
	Competencies to identify and manage all potential critical, legal, and compliance-related risks associated with the cloud.	
1.1.1 Risks, compliance & security	Competencies to ensure compliance with internal as well as external policies, regulations, and accountability mechanisms when operating in the cloud.	
	Competencies to evaluate cloud vendors to ensure deployment of security mechanisms related to information assurance, data privacy, data confidentiality, ownership, and technology-related issues.	
1.1.2 Contract management	Skills to develop and manage contracts for effective SLAs, pricing, access rights, data ownership, risk management, and to ensure the availability of data and reports.	
1.1.3 Performance management	Competencies required for setting quality levels, monitoring the vendor against the SLA and rating their performance.	
1.1.4 Knowledge management	Skills to share knowledge between cloud users and vendors in both directions, building trust that will result in improved commitment and better overall results.	
1.1.5 Negotiation skills	Skills to negotiate the contract terms to ensure the rights and obligations for both parties.	
1.1.6 Conflict management	Skills to assess and avoid any negative impact from establishing new business ties or terminating existing business with a cloud provider.	
1.1.7 Change management	Ability to handle challenges, and readiness to adopt the new technology.	
1.1.8 Technical competencies	Competencies to coordinate with the cloud vendor to implement/ integrate the cloud services with the existing systems.	
<Add elements if required	<Add definitions if required>	
	Instruction: Provide valuable feedback/comment/suggestions	
Feedback		

Delphi Round 2 Questionnaire (Ranking elements)

Allocating accountability & responsibility of IT controls in a cloud environment

STEP 1

Personal data

Instructions:

Please provide your email address. This information will only be used by the researcher for data analysis.

Email ID

STEP 2

Ranking the roles and responsibilities allocations elements based on its importance

SURVEY:

Input on roles and responsibilities allocation elements in a public cloud environemnt.

SECTION 1 -

Five main elements of the model

INSTRUCTION 1

Rank the elements using a score between 1 (most important) and 5 (least important). Please do not repeat the rank

INSTRUCTION 2

Kindly fill percentage value totalling to an exact of 100 percent

Elements	Definition	Your Rank (1 to 5)	Your Weigh (%age)
1. Competencies, skills & mind-set (People)	People with right competencies, skills and mindsets will impact their allocation to controls on the cloud		
2. Structure	Roles and responsibilities allocation is based on the location of decision-making power and authority that establishes the reporting relationships, power distribution, and communication channels. IT strategy which is in alignment with business objectives will define whether to build capabilities (like skills, processes, technologies, people abilities) internally or to exploit external capabilities. It defines the tasks to be performed.		
3. Strategy	People are rewarded by being allocated to cloud-related tasks, so as to give them opportunity for growth, motivation, recognition, and the challenge of learning new technologies.		
4. Rewards	Roles and responsibilities allocation depends on building interpersonal and collaborative relationships among units and organisations.		
5. Relational Mechanisms			
	TOTAL		100%
	Instruction: Provide valuable feedback/comment/suggestions		

Feedback

SURVEY:

Input on roles and responsibilities allocation elements in a public cloud environemnt.

SECTION 2 -

Two sub-elements of the ' Competencies, skills & mind-set (People)'

INSTRUCTION 1

Rank the elements using a score as 1 (most important) or 3 (least important). Please do not repeat the rank

INSTRUCTION 2

Kindly fill percentage value totalling to an exact of 100 percent

Sub-elements	Definition	Your Rank (1 to 3)	Your Weight (%age)
1.1 Vendor evaluation & management	People must have competencies and skills to evaluate and manage cloud vendors		
1.2 Processes	Competencies to handle different sets of processes that cross departmental and organisational boundaries.		
1.3 Mind-set	Ability to handle challenges, and readiness to adopt the new technology.		
	TOTAL		100%
	Instruction: Provide valuable feedback/comment/suggestions		

Feedback

SURVEY: Input on roles and responsibilities allocation elements in a public cloud environment.	SECTION 3 - Seven sub-elements of the 'Vendor evaluation & management' sub-factor	INSTRUCTION 1 Rank the elements using a score between 1 (most important) and 7 (least important). Please do not repeat the rank	INSTRUCTION 2 Kindly fill percentage value totalling to an exact of 100 percent
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Sub-elements	Definition	Your Rank (1 to 7)	Your Weight (%age)
	Competencies to identify and manage all potential critical, legal, and compliance-related risks associated with the cloud.		
1.1.1 Risks, compliance & security management	Competencies to ensure compliance with internal as well as external policies, regulations, and accountability mechanisms when operating in the cloud.		
	Competencies to evaluate cloud vendors to ensure deployment of security mechanisms related to information assurance, data privacy, data confidentiality, ownership, and technology-related issues.		
1.1.2 Contract management	Skills to develop and manage contracts for effective SLAs, pricing, access rights, data ownership, risk management, and to ensure the availability of data and reports.		
1.1.3 Performance management	Competencies required for setting quality levels, monitoring the vendor against the SLAs, and rating their performance.		
1.1.4 Knowledge management	Skills to share knowledge between cloud users and vendors in both directions, building trust that will result in improved commitment and better overall results.		
1.1.5 Negotiation skills	Skills to negotiate the contract terms to ensure the rights and obligations for both parties.		
1.1.6 Conflict management	Skills to assess and avoid any negative impact from establishing new business ties or terminating existing business with a cloud provider.		
1.1.7 Technical competencies	Competencies to coordinate with the cloud vendor to implement/integrate the cloud services with the existing systems.		
	TOTAL		100%
	Instruction: Provide valuable feedback/comment/suggestions		
Feedback			