



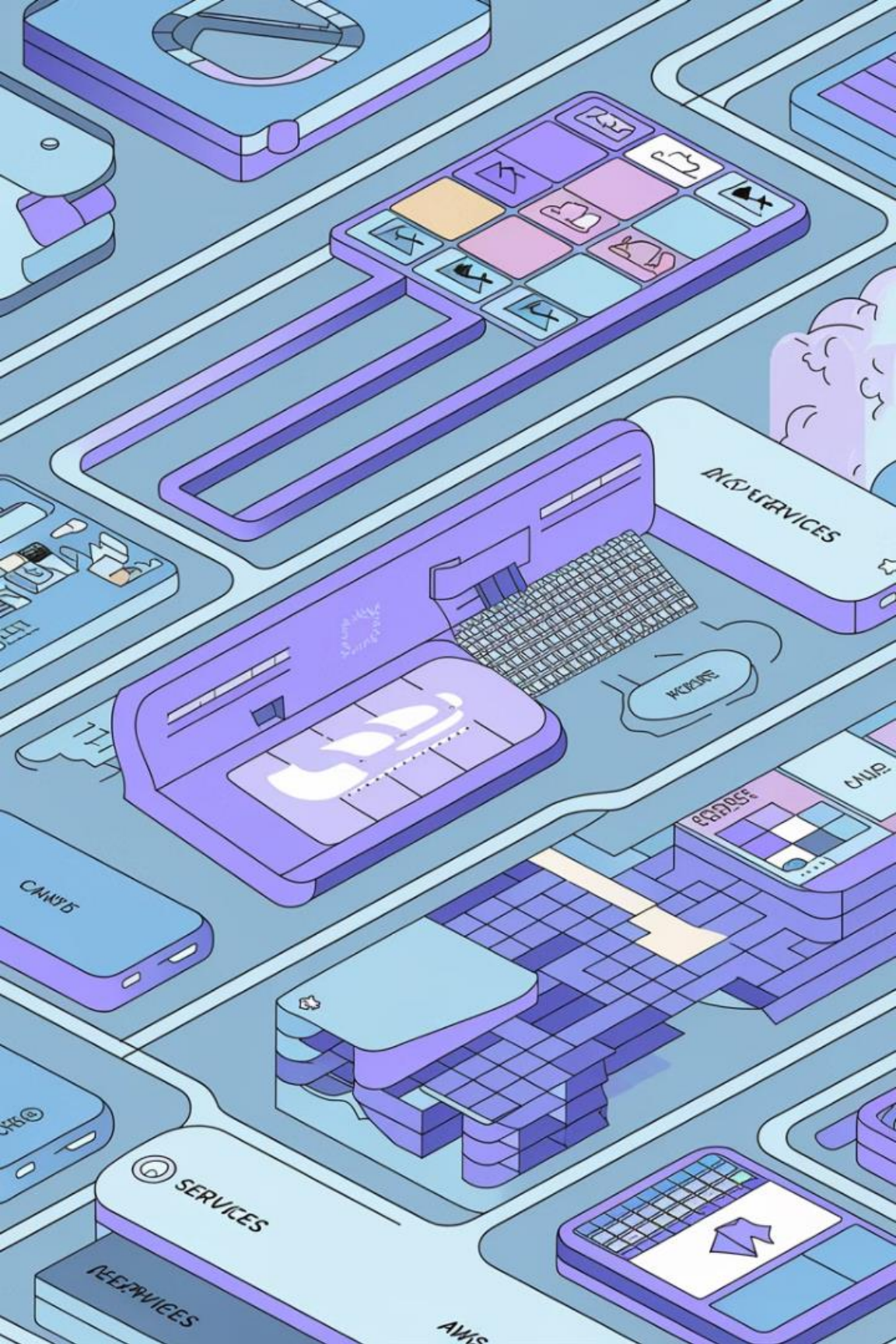
AWS for Project Managers

What You Need to Know to Lead Cloud Projects Successfully

Cloud adoption is no longer optional—it's a business imperative. Many organizations move to AWS for scalability, cost savings, and flexibility.

Project Managers don't need to be cloud experts, but understanding key AWS concepts helps you communicate with stakeholders, mitigate risks, and manage scope effectively.

 by Kimberly Wiethoff



Core AWS Services

Compute

EC2 (virtual machines), Lambda (serverless computing), and ECS/EKS (containers).

Storage

S3 (object storage), EBS (block storage), and Glacier (archival storage).

Databases

RDS (relational database), DynamoDB (NoSQL), and Redshift (data warehousing).

Networking & Security

VPC (virtual private network), IAM (identity management), and CloudTrail (audit logs).



PM Tip: Understanding Services



Ask Questions

Speak with architects about which AWS services they plan to use and why.



See the Big Picture

Understanding service relationships helps manage dependencies and risks.



Document Decisions

Keep track of service choices and their business justifications.



Business Alignment

What business problem are we solving with AWS?

Ensure cloud adoption addresses specific business needs, not just technical interests.

What are the performance, security, and compliance requirements?

These requirements will shape your AWS architecture choices.

Are we migrating legacy systems or building cloud-native apps?

The approach differs significantly based on this strategic decision.

What's the expected ROI on this AWS investment?

Define clear metrics to measure success of your cloud initiative.

AWS Well-Architected Framework

Operational Excellence
Run and monitor systems to deliver business value.

Cost Optimization
Avoid unnecessary costs while meeting business needs.



Security

Protect information, systems, and assets.

Reliability

Ensure a workload performs its intended function correctly.

Performance Efficiency

Use computing resources efficiently to meet requirements.



Managing AWS Costs

1

Track Expenses

Use AWS Cost Explorer to monitor and analyze cloud spending patterns.

2

Right-size Resources

Avoid over-provisioning EC2 instances and other resources.

3

Reserved Instances

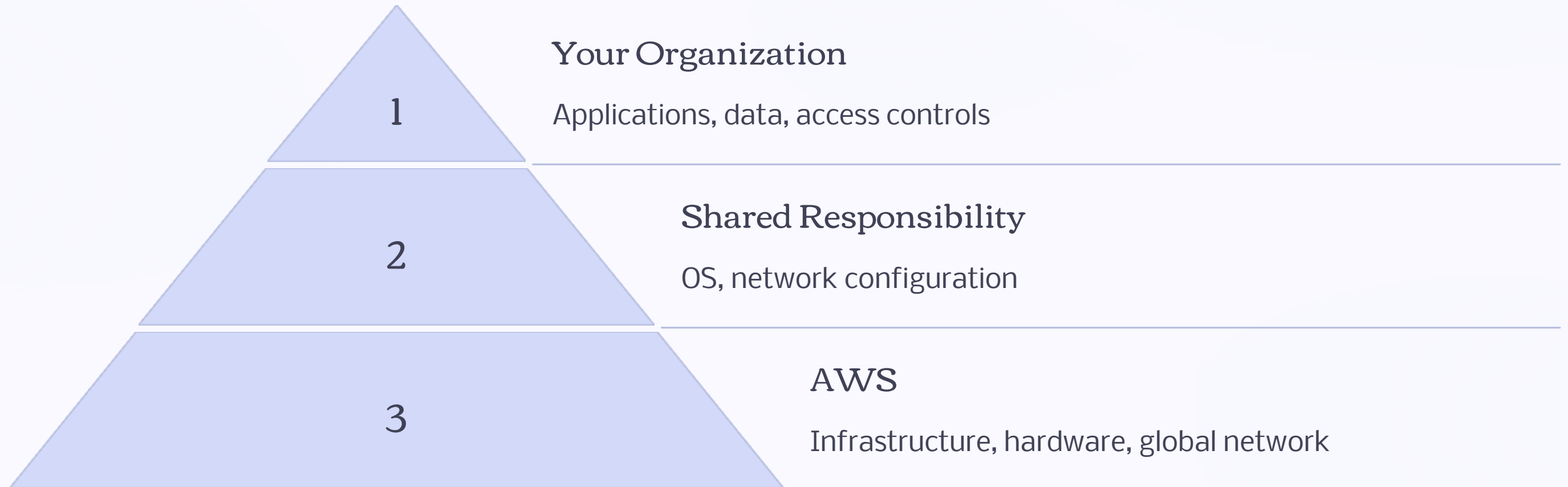
Leverage Reserved Instances & Savings Plans for predictable workloads.

4

Budgets & Alerts

Set up budgets & alerts in AWS to prevent unexpected cost overruns.

Security & Compliance



AWS follows a Shared Responsibility Model where AWS secures the underlying infrastructure while your organization is responsible for securing applications and data.

Key Security Practices

IAM Roles

Use IAM roles & least privilege access to limit permissions.

Encryption

Implement encryption for sensitive data using AWS KMS.

Monitoring

Set up CloudWatch & GuardDuty for security monitoring.

Compliance

Ensure compliance with HIPAA, SOC2, ISO27001 if needed.



Agile & DevOps for AWS

CI/CD Pipelines

Automate deployments using AWS CodePipeline & CodeBuild.

Infrastructure as Code

Use Terraform or CloudFormation to manage cloud resources.

Monitoring & Logging

Implement AWS CloudWatch for performance tracking.

Automated Testing

Integrate AWS Lambda & API Gateway for scalable testing.



Managing Cloud Teams

Shorter Sprints

Implement shorter development cycles to adapt quickly to cloud changes.

Continuous Integration

Ensure teams are leveraging automation effectively.

1

2

3

4

Cross-Functional Teams

Foster collaboration between developers, operations, and security teams.

Knowledge Sharing

Create opportunities for AWS expertise to spread across the team.

PM's Role in AWS Projects



Bridge the Gap

Connect business and technology teams with clear communication.



Manage Risks

Oversee cloud project scope, risks, and costs effectively.



Ensure Best Practices

Drive security, compliance, and performance standards.

Key Takeaways

1

Strategic Leadership

PMs are strategic leaders, not cloud engineers

2

Business Alignment

Ensure AWS implementation serves business goals

3

Cost Management

Actively monitor and optimize cloud spending

4

Security Focus

Integrate security throughout the project lifecycle

You don't need to deploy an EC2 instance or write an IAM policy, but understanding these concepts will make you a better AWS Project Manager.

Final Thoughts

Project Managers play a crucial role in AWS implementations—not as cloud engineers, but as **strategic leaders**.



Bridge the Gap

Connect business and technology teams with clear communication and mutual understanding.



Manage Cloud Resources

Oversee project scope, risks, and costs effectively to ensure AWS implementations deliver value.



Ensure Best Practices

Drive security, compliance, and performance standards throughout your AWS projects.



Drive Collaboration

Foster Agile teamwork for successful cloud adoption and continuous improvement.

You don't need to **deploy an EC2 instance** or **write an IAM policy**, but understanding these concepts **will make you a better AWS PM**.