Foreword

Cloud computing is a rapidly growing business and technology area. It has been one of the most challenging technologies and has changed the way IT is consumed by enterprises. More and more enterprises are willing to step into the cloud business and realize the full business potential that the cloud offers: increased agility, velocity and innovation in business IT. Cloud computing has made possible the extensive automation of managing and administering IT systems, thereby providing many unique benefits when compared to traditional IT models. The ability to subscribe to “as-a-service” consumption model has been a key driver for cloud adoption.

The cloud systems and related services are complex to design, implement and run. Challenges include establishing cloud reference architectures, implementing cloud platforms and services, migrating application workloads into clouds, designing hybrid cloud service frameworks and providing cloud service brokerage. We are facing these challenges and we are working through and overcoming these challenges in order to deliver the desired cloud platforms and services in our real world business.

The challenges in cloud computing are both difficult and interesting. This book has great value in providing an end-to-end and systemic study on both architectural design and implementation of cloud computing. It offers a reference handbook of state of the art industrial and research knowledge to IT professionals and researchers, and helps the audience to find out the key challenges of cloud worlds and explore the ways to overcome these challenges using the best industrial practices validated in real enterprise use cases.

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George Africa is a Solutioning Executive Leader and Executive IT Architect in IBM Australia. He is a recognised business leader and technology innovator especially in cloud business. George provides leadership to establish corporate cloud architecture and deploy new cloud business capabilities, and provides the vision, direction and strategy to ensure effective delivery of cloud platforms and services.