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# Cloud Diagrams

## User Manual

Complete guide to creating professional cloud architecture diagrams  
for AWS, Azure, and Google Cloud Platform

Version 1.0

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# 1. Getting Started

## Creating an Account

To get started with Cloud Diagrams, create a free account:

1. Visit the Cloud Diagrams homepage
2. Click "Get Started" or "Sign Up"
3. Enter your email address and create a password
4. Verify your email address
5. You're ready to start creating diagrams!

## Your First Diagram

Once logged in, you'll be directed to the editor. Here's how to create your first diagram:

1. Click "New Diagram" in the toolbar or sidebar
2. Choose a diagram type (e.g., Architecture Diagram)
3. Give your diagram a name
4. Drag cloud services from the sidebar onto the canvas
5. Connect services by clicking and dragging between nodes
6. Click "Save" to save your work

**Pro Tip:**

Use the Quick Insert panel in the sidebar to add services with a single click. Simply click on any service icon and it will be automatically placed on your canvas.

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## 2. User Interface

The Cloud Diagrams interface consists of four main areas:

### 1. Toolbar (Top)

The toolbar provides access to all main actions:

- Diagram Name - Click to edit the diagram title
- Save - Save your diagram to the cloud
- Export - Export as PNG, SVG, PDF, or JSON
- Undo/Redo - Navigate through your edit history
- New Diagram - Create a new diagram
- Collaboration - Manage sharing and collaborators
- ADR - Access Architecture Decision Records
- Profile - Access account settings

### 2. Sidebar (Left)

The sidebar contains the service palette and templates:

- Services Tab - Browse 100+ cloud services from AWS, Azure, and GCP
- Templates Tab - Choose from pre-built architecture patterns
- Search - Quickly find services by name
- Provider Filter - Filter by AWS, Azure, or GCP
- Category Filter - Browse by service category

### 3. Canvas (Center)

The main workspace where you create your diagrams:

- Pan - Click and drag on empty space to move around
- Zoom - Use mouse wheel or pinch gesture to zoom
- Select - Click on nodes to select them
- Multi-select - Hold Shift and click multiple nodes
- Connect - Drag from one node's edge to another

### 4. Minimap (Bottom Right)

A small overview of your entire diagram. Click anywhere on the minimap to quickly navigate to that area. The highlighted rectangle shows your current viewport.

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## 3. Creating Diagrams

Cloud Diagrams supports over 40 diagram types organized into 8 categories:

### UML Diagrams (9 types)

- Class Diagram - Object-oriented modeling
- Sequence Diagram - Interactions over time
- State Diagram - State transitions
- Activity Diagram - Workflow sequences
- Use Case Diagram - User interactions
- Deployment Diagram - Physical deployment
- Communication Diagram - Object interactions
- Timing Diagram - Behavior over time
- Interaction Overview Diagram

### Data Diagrams (3 types)

- Entity Relationship Diagram (ERD) - Database schemas
- Query Flow Diagram - Database query paths
- Data Flow Diagram - Data movement through system

### Architecture Diagrams (3 types)

- Infrastructure Diagram - Servers and resources
- Container Diagram - Containerization
- Network Topology Diagram - Network layout

### Generated Architecture Patterns (8 types)

- Lambda Architecture - Serverless functions
- Serverless Architecture - Full serverless stack
- Microservices Architecture - Distributed services
- Event-Driven Architecture - Async event flow
- Data Pipeline Architecture - ETL/ELT
- API Gateway Architecture - Centralized API
- CQRS Architecture - Command-query separation
- Hexagonal Architecture - Ports and adapters

## 4. Components & Services

### Cloud Services

Access 100+ cloud services from three major providers:

#### AWS (Amazon Web Services)

EC2, S3, Lambda, RDS, DynamoDB, CloudFront, API Gateway, SQS, SNS, and more.

#### Azure (Microsoft)

Virtual Machines, Blob Storage, Functions, SQL Database, Cosmos DB, CDN, and more.

#### GCP (Google Cloud)

Compute Engine, Cloud Storage, Cloud Functions, Cloud SQL, BigQuery, and more.

### Service Categories

Services are organized into 9 categories for easy navigation:

Compute

Storage

Database

Networking

Security

Analytics

Integration

DevOps

AI/ML

### Adding Services to Canvas

There are two ways to add services:

- Method 1: Drag and Drop - Click and drag a service from the sidebar onto the canvas
- Method 2: One-Click Insert - Simply click on a service to instantly add it to the canvas

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## 5. Connections & Flows

### Creating Connections

To connect two nodes:

1. Hover over a node to see the connection handles
2. Click and drag from a handle on the source node
3. Drag to a handle on the target node
4. Release to create the connection

### Connection Properties

Connections (edges) can be customized with:

- Arrow Direction - Forward, Backward, or Bidirectional
- Marker Type - Arrow, Triangle (inheritance), Diamond (aggregation), Filled Diamond (composition), None
- Step Number - Automatic numbering for flow sequences
- Label - Descriptive text for the connection
- Style - Stroke width, color, dash pattern

### Flow Steps

Flow steps allow you to create numbered sequences showing how data or requests flow through your architecture. Each connection can have a step number and description that will be displayed during animation playback.

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## 6. Animations

Cloud Diagrams supports animated walkthroughs that bring your diagrams to life. Animations follow the numbered flow steps to show how data moves through your system.

### Playback Controls

- Play/Pause - Start or stop the animation
- Previous/Next - Step through animations manually
- Speed Control - Adjust playback speed (0.5x, 1x, 1.5x, 2x)
- Progress Bar - Shows current position in the sequence

### Creating Animated Flows

1. Create connections between your nodes
2. Assign step numbers to each connection
3. Add descriptions for each step
4. Click Play to preview the animation

5. Adjust timing and order as needed

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## 7. Export & Share

### Export Formats

Export your diagrams in multiple formats:

- PNG Image - High-quality raster image perfect for documentation, presentations, and web. Includes optional flow steps panel. (Pro Feature)
- SVG Vector - Scalable vector graphics that stay crisp at any size. Ideal for print and high-resolution displays. (Pro Feature)
- PDF Document - Multi-page PDF with diagram and flow steps documentation. Perfect for sharing and archiving. (Pro Feature)
- JSON Data - Complete diagram data including all nodes, edges, and metadata. Use for backup, version control, or importing into other tools. (Free)

### Sharing Options

- Share Link - Generate a read-only link for anyone to view
- Invite Collaborators - Add team members as editors or viewers
- Team Workspace - Share diagrams with your entire team

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## 8. Collaboration

Cloud Diagrams supports real-time collaboration, allowing multiple team members to work on the same diagram simultaneously.

### Collaboration Roles

- Owner - Full control including delete, transfer ownership, and manage all settings
- Editor - Can modify the diagram, add/remove components, and create connections
- Viewer - Can view and export the diagram but cannot make changes

### Adding Collaborators

1. Click the "Collaboration" button in the toolbar
2. Enter the email address of the person you want to invite
3. Select their role (Editor or Viewer)
4. Click "Invite" to send the invitation

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## 9. ADR System

Architecture Decision Records (ADRs) help you document important architectural decisions and the context behind them. Each ADR captures the reasoning, implications, and status of a decision.

### ADR Components

- Title - Short description of the decision
- Context - The situation and forces at play
- Decision - What was decided and why
- Status - Proposed, Accepted, Deprecated, or Superseded
- Consequences - Resulting implications
- Related ADRs - Links to other relevant decisions
- Diagram Snapshot - Automatic capture of diagram state

### Creating an ADR

1. Click the "ADR" button in the toolbar
2. Click "New ADR" to create a new record
3. Fill in the title, context, and decision details
4. Set the appropriate status
5. Link to related ADRs if applicable
6. Save the ADR

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## 10. Templates

Start quickly with pre-built architecture templates. Each template provides a starting point that you can customize for your needs.

### Available Templates

- 3-Tier Architecture - Web, Application, and Database layers
- Microservices - Distributed services with API gateway
- Serverless - Functions, API Gateway, and managed services
- Event-Driven - Message queues and event processing
- Data Pipeline - ETL/ELT with data lake and warehouse
- CQRS Pattern - Command and Query separation

### Using Templates

1. Click the "Templates" tab in the sidebar
2. Browse available templates by category
3. Click on a template to preview it
4. Customize options (cloud provider, services, scaling)

5. Click "Generate" to create the architecture
6. Modify as needed for your specific use case

## 11. Keyboard Shortcuts

Action	Windows/Linux	Mac
Undo	Ctrl + Z	
Redo	Ctrl + Y	
Save	Ctrl + S	
Delete Selected	Delete	
Select All	Ctrl + A	
Escape / Close	Esc	
Edit Node Label	Double Click	
Context Menu	Right Click	
Zoom In	Ctrl + Scroll Up	
Zoom Out	Ctrl + Scroll Down	

## 12. Plans & Pricing

### Free Plan - £0

- Up to 1 diagram
- Basic cloud services
- Export to JSON
- Local storage

### Pro Plan - £12/year

Popular

- Unlimited diagrams
- All cloud services
- Export to PNG, SVG, PDF & JSON
- Cloud storage & sync
- Full ADR support
- Priority support
- Early access

### Team Plan - £12/user/year

- Everything in Pro
- Team workspace
- Member management
- Centralized billing

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## 13. Frequently Asked Questions

### **Can I cancel my subscription anytime?**

Yes, you can cancel your subscription at any time. You'll continue to have access to Pro features until the end of your billing period.

### **What happens to my diagrams if I downgrade?**

Your diagrams are never deleted. If you exceed the free tier limit, you'll still be able to view and export them, but you won't be able to create new ones until you upgrade or delete some existing diagrams.

### **Can I use my diagrams offline?**

Cloud Diagrams is a web-based application that requires an internet connection. However, you can export your diagrams as JSON files for offline backup and import them later.

### **How do I add custom icons?**

Currently, Cloud Diagrams supports built-in cloud service icons and emojis. Custom icon upload is on our roadmap for a future release.

### **Is my data secure?**

Yes, all data is encrypted in transit and at rest. We use industry-standard security practices and never share your diagrams with third parties.

### **Can I import diagrams from other tools?**

You can import diagrams from Cloud Diagrams JSON exports. We're working on importers for other popular diagramming tools.

### **How do I contact support?**

Pro and Team users can access priority support through the help menu in the application. Free users can submit questions through our community forum.

## Need more help?

Visit our online documentation at

[clouddiagrams.app/manual](https://clouddiagrams.app/manual)