CSIT and Google Cloud Collaborate to Pilot Sovereign Cloud Solution in Singapore

The agency in Singapore's Ministry of Defence will be able to tap Google Cloud's AI and data services to process high volumes of sensitive data securely in isolation from the public internet

Singapore, Nov. 17, 2023 – The Centre for Strategic Infocomm Technologies (CSIT) and Google Cloud today announced they will be piloting the use of Google Distributed Cloud Hosted (GDC Hosted) to support CSIT's effort to harness AI in tackling Singapore's defense and security challenges.

CSIT, a member of the Defence Technology Community, has been collaborating with Google Cloud by providing its use cases and technical requirements to further enhance GDC Hosted. As part of the pilot, CSIT will trial the use of GDC Hosted on-premises, tapping on the solution's built-in data management and pre-trained machine learning capabilities to process sensitive data.

GDC Hosted provides organizations in the public sector and highly regulated industries with a cloud platform that requires no connectivity to Google Cloud or the public internet for its operation and continued management. This gives organizations the ability to run workloads in their data centers with the functionality, flexibility, and scale of cloud services. This includes the ability to form clusters across multiple GDC Hosted zones for added protection against system failures, and more flexible, modular options for adding extra compute resources like the graphics processing units (GPUs) designed for running demanding AI workloads.

Harnessing AI for defense needs

Designed to support data, operational, and software sovereignty requirements, GDC Hosted includes the company's advanced AI and database services like Vertex AI and AlloyDB Omni, and increases customer control and transparency over sensitive data. Updates to GDC Hosted, including Google Cloud's pre-trained AI models, are accessed through secure hardware and installed by the customer itself. As a user of GDC Hosted, CSIT retains total operational control over all data and software, ensuring the safety and security of mission-critical workloads.

Built using industry-leading open source components like Kubernetes, GDC Hosted also provides access to familiar developer tools, enabling CSIT's technical personnel to operate GDC Hosted and its applications with minimal retraining.

"CSIT develops digital capabilities for defense and security, such as in cyber defense. The collaboration with Google Cloud on GDC Hosted allows us to tap on its expertise in data management, cloud technologies, and AI while keeping sensitive data secure," said Darren Teo, Chief Executive, Centre for Strategic Infocomm Technologies.

"By offering full isolation alongside integrated AI services and access to an open ecosystem, GDC Hosted combines the benefits of fully managed and scalable infrastructure for running mission-critical workloads with operational flexibility," said Mitesh Agarwal, Managing Director, Technology and Solutions, Asia Pacific, Google Cloud. "By working together with CSIT to meet its unique specifications for processing sensitive data, we look forward to further contributing to its efforts to remain at the forefront of the evolving cyber defense landscape."

About the Centre for Strategic Infocomm Technologies
CSIT is a technical agency in the Ministry of Defence that harnesses cutting-edge digital technologies to meet Singapore's security needs. CSIT is a member of the Defence Technology Community.

For more information, please visit www.csit.gov.sg

About Google Cloud
Google Cloud accelerates every organization's ability to digitally transform its business and industry. We deliver enterprise-grade solutions that leverage Google's cutting-edge technology, and tools that help developers build more sustainably. Customers in more than 200 countries and territories turn to Google Cloud as their trusted partner to enable growth and solve their most critical business problems.
