Foreword

I am pleased to introduce the book *Cloud Governance: Basics and Practice*, the first volume in a new series titled the *Professors of Practice Series* launched by De Gruyter. The series advocates the importance of balancing theory with real-world practice-driven perspectives, which will help students, scholars, practitioners, and influencers internationally gain additional insights into integrating the book's topic with the external business environment and context.

By way of professional background, I have been a professor of practice at Warwick Business School in London since 2013 and director of the Warwick Business School DBA Program. I am also an executive director of one of the world's leading executive mentoring companies, where I have the privilege of supporting senior business leaders and their organizations. In addition, I have held operational, governance, and leadership roles in a range of organizations internationally. This experience greatly informs my approach to writing and teaching and helps me integrate a practitioner perspective into a lecture theatre.

The Professors of Practice series is a new, original, and timely series of books authored by professors of practice in business schools worldwide and practitioners. Professors of practice are professors or lecturers in higher education who serve as practitioners or influencers in public and private companies, government agencies, consultancy firms, regulators, external auditors, or not-for-profit organizations that span size and geography. Each book in this series draws on theory, practices, and the authors' combination of teaching and practice experience. The books cover critical topics taught in academic settings, combined with real-life examples from an international perspective. This approach helps readers understand both the theoretical and applied nature of the subject matter.

Books in the series will be of interest to a range of cohorts. For instance, business school students; executive education programme participants; teachers and researchers; and business practitioners, including directors, organizational business practitioners, regulators, external auditors, legal and compliance, and learning and development influencers.

The title of this first book in the series is *Cloud Governance: Basics and Practice*. The book combines two independent and complex domains, *the cloud*, and *corporate governance*. Each has organization-wide strategic, performance, risk, business process, and human capital impacts and outcomes. Each is also riddled with confusing jargon and an abundance of inconsistent definitions of terms, frameworks, and complex ecosystems.

The widescale deployment of the cloud rapidly and uniquely infiltrates and impacts the entire organization. While providing valuable opportunities, this organization-wide impact is exacerbating existing risks, creating new and unexpected risks,

and materially stressing, disrupting, and transforming long-standing and proven corporate governance practices (e.g., strategies, processes, and competencies).

This disruption shines a bright light on how best to govern the cloud effectively and practically within an organization's overall strategy and governance ecosystem. Governing the cloud responsibly and securely is, therefore, crucial. Cloud governance plays a crucial and central role in responsibly optimizing the strategic opportunities afforded by the cloud while at the same time governing the range of risks emerging from the use of the cloud.

This book combines theory, real-world practices, and the unique educational and practice perspectives of the authors to provide a basic yet comprehensive introduction to the unique combination of *cloud computing* (the cloud) and *corporate governance*. It successfully brings to life the diverse range of opportunities and challenges associated with governing the deployment and enterprise-wide growth and use of the cloud, while explaining and contextualizing the abundance of inconsistent definitions of terms, frameworks, and ecosystems.

The authors of *Cloud Governance: Basics and Practice* bring the following to readers:

– A balanced mix of knowledge, skills, and experience in the relevant domains of corporate governance, cloud governance, organizational strategy, change management, and learning and development; this diversified experience spans industry sectors, international jurisdictions, and public, private, and not-for-profit organizations.
– An effectively balanced, user-friendly presentation of both the *basics* element (e.g., providing user-friendly, practical definitions and explanations of complex jargon) and the *practice element* (e.g., examples of best practices, popular frameworks and standards, and influencer perspectives).
– Easy-to-read chapters that describe the governance implications of the cloud; creatively introducing their "Cloud Governance House" – a unique, simple, and practical cloud governance ecosystem that addresses this complex topic in a simple way.

Cloud Governance: Basics and Practice will appeal to diversified cohorts of international students, operational and risk managers, boards, auditors, and advisors. Understanding the combination of both has emerged as a critical capability for various stakeholders, including students, teachers, researchers, boards, and executives of companies, irrespective of their size and location. It also is an essential companion to those studying and interested in the stand-alone topics of corporate governance or cloud computing.

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Professor Chris Beer
Director, Warwick Business School DBA Programme

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